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40 days to go before the start of the new fiscal year

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BUSINESS

Tesla Motors' all-electric Model S sedan gets highest crash test ratings. ➤ PAGE 13

ASIA

Floods recede in Manila as thousands are evacuated from their homes. ➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

Best-selling author Elmore Leonard, the Dickens of Detroit, dies. ➤ PAGE 19

Competition for hotel rooms crimp arrival numbers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More tourists would have traveled to the Commonwealth in the last few months had the islands had enough hotel rooms for prospective guests.

This challenge was specifically cited by the Marianas Visitors Authority among the factors behind the flat arrivals from the CNMI's No. 1 tourism market, Japan.

» MVA: Tourism arrivals continue to soar

In July, this destination posted a 2-percent decline compared to the same period last year, dropping from 10,988 to 10,783.

The drop, according to an MVA statement yesterday, is blamed primarily on Delta Air Lines' cancellation of flights from Narita last month, coupled with the

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CNMI mourns loss of Dora

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Dora Grace Ada Camacho's passing early yesterday morning at a hospital in San Diego, Calif., triggered an outpouring of support not only from the CNMI community but everyone touched by her bravery and indefatigable spirit in the midst of her debilitating condition. She was 9 years old.

Camacho, known simply as Dora, was with her mother, Jennifer C. Ada, and other loved ones when she passed away at the Rady Children's Hospital, where she has been confined since late last year.

Aside from numerous messages of condolences on social media, the Commonwealth's leaders also

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WWW.GOFUNDME.COM
This is a photo of Dora Grace Ada Camacho that appears in her family's gofundme website. Camacho's family was trying to raise money to have her reunited with her siblings. She died yesterday morning at the age of 9.

Senate OKs substitute e-gaming, budget bills

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After passing an amended electronic gaming bill, the Senate passed last night its substitute version of a $123.4-million budget bill that the House of Representatives is expected to reject, paving the way for a conference committee barely a month before the start of fiscal year 2014.

» Senators ready for conference committee with House

"We are ready for a conference committee with the House," Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* shortly after the session that lasted until about 7:30pm.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) echoed the president's statement, adding that she's ready to meet with House conferees.

The Senate's substitute version of the

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Sen. Ayuyu resigns effective Oct. 7. PAGE 2
Interior awards 300K grant to NMC. PAGE 7

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Local

Sen. Ayuyu resigns effective Oct. 7

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) has resigned as a senator effective Oct. 7, a month before his Nov. 8 sentencing in connection with smuggling endangered fruit bats from Rota to Saipan and obstruction of justice.

As promised, Ayuyu sent his resignation letter to Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) "before" the rescheduled 2:30pm Wednesday session.

Torres and Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (R-Rota) separately said last night that the Oct. 7 resignation may just be in time for the expected release of a court decision on a certified question submitted.

The certified question would resolve the issue of whether Gov. Eloy S. Inos should appoint the next vote getter among Rota senatorial candidates in the 2009 or 2012 elections, should a Rota senatorial seat becomes vacant.

"We have to wait for the certified question," Hocog said during a session break last night.

He said once the court issues an opinion, the Rules and Procedures Committee would decide and make a recommendation whether to expel Ayuyu immediately or ask him to change the effective date of his resignation from Oct. 7 to when the court decides on the matter.

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, in a March 15, 2013, legal opinion, said that if Ayuyu is convicted and a vacancy in the Senate exists, that vacancy will be filled by Joey Anthony Quitugua, the second highest vote getter in the 2009 senatorial elections for Rota.

In 2012, the second highest vote getter was former Senate president Paul Manglona.

Hocog, chairman of the Rules and Procedures Committee, said Ayuyu is technically still a member of the 18th Senate and still can participate in Senate sessions and official functions.

Ayuyu may also ask for reinstatement of his salary, among other things, until the effective date of his resignation or until he's expelled, Hocog said.

Ayuyu faces 33 to 41 months in prison after pleading guilty to smuggling endangered fruit bats from Rota to Saipan and obstruction of justice.

His term as senator ends in January 2015, way before the end of his possible prison term.

He has been released temporarily from prison awaiting his sentencing but was not at the Wednesday Senate session. He is currently on Rota with his family.

Ayuyu, 48, was in jail since Dec. 17, 2012, on charges of alleged smuggling of endangered fruit bats, witness tampering, and possession of a cell phone while in prison.

Quitugua, who could be the likely appointee for senator representing Rota, is back in the CNMI and told *Saipan Tribune* he is ready to serve, while acknowledging pending legal issues.

The governor also earlier said he is waiting for a court opinion, while at the same acknowledging the attorney general opinion on the matter.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Newly confirmed Commonwealth Ports Authority board member Michael H. San Nicolas, second from left, poses with his wife Carla, left, Sen. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian), second from right, and Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), right, during a short Senate session break yesterday.

The Senate confirmed yesterday Gov. Eloy S. Inos' nominations of Dave B. Guerrero to serve on the Public Utilities Commission and Michael H. San Nicolas to serve on the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors.

Guerrero's nomination to PUC, however, still needs the House of Representatives' confirmation. Two House panels have already jointly recommended his confirmation.

By a vote of 8-0, the Senate adopted the Committee on Executive Appointment and Government Investigations' report recommending San Nicolas' confirmation.

The EAGI Committee report recommending Guerrero's confirmation also got a vote of 8-0.

Guerrero, a PUC nominee, is currently a Bank of Guam assistant vice president, and has been in banking and finance since 2005 in California, New York, Guam, and the CNMI.

PUC has regulatory oversight of all utilities entities in the CNMI, including telecommunications, power, water, wastewater, and cable television.

San Nicolas, meanwhile, represents Tinian on the CPA board. He will serve the unexpired term of Manuel Villagomez, until June 4, 2015.

He and his wife Carla were in the Senate chamber during the Senate vote yesterday. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Hasselback questions Nicholas' continued representation of Buckingham

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George L. Hasselback has asked Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman to clarify the effect of his order that disqualifies attorney Brien Sers Nicholas as counsel for former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham.

In his request for clarification filed Tuesday, Hasselback said that Wiseman's Friday order disqualified Nicholas from further representation of Buckingham, but the judge made a supplemental order that clarified that the disqualification was to start on Aug. 19.

Given the language of these two orders, Hasselback said the only reasonable conclusion one can reach is that Nicholas was divested of any ability to represent Buckingham in the case effective Aug. 19.

Subsequent to his disqualification, Nicholas filed with the court an amended motion for reconsideration of the Aug. 16 disqualification order.

In that document, Hasselback said, Buckingham's former counsel, Nicholas, purports to represent the defendant in the latter's attempt to seek reconsideration of the disqualification orders.

Hasselback said the amended motion for reconsideration and its accompanying memorandum in support of the motion both indicate that Nicholas has made a further written appearance on behalf of Buckingham despite the court's two orders disqualifying him from further representation.

"Given the clear and unambiguous language contained in these orders, the Commonwealth would submit that defendant's former counsel's continued representation of defendant is in flagrant disregard of the same," he said.

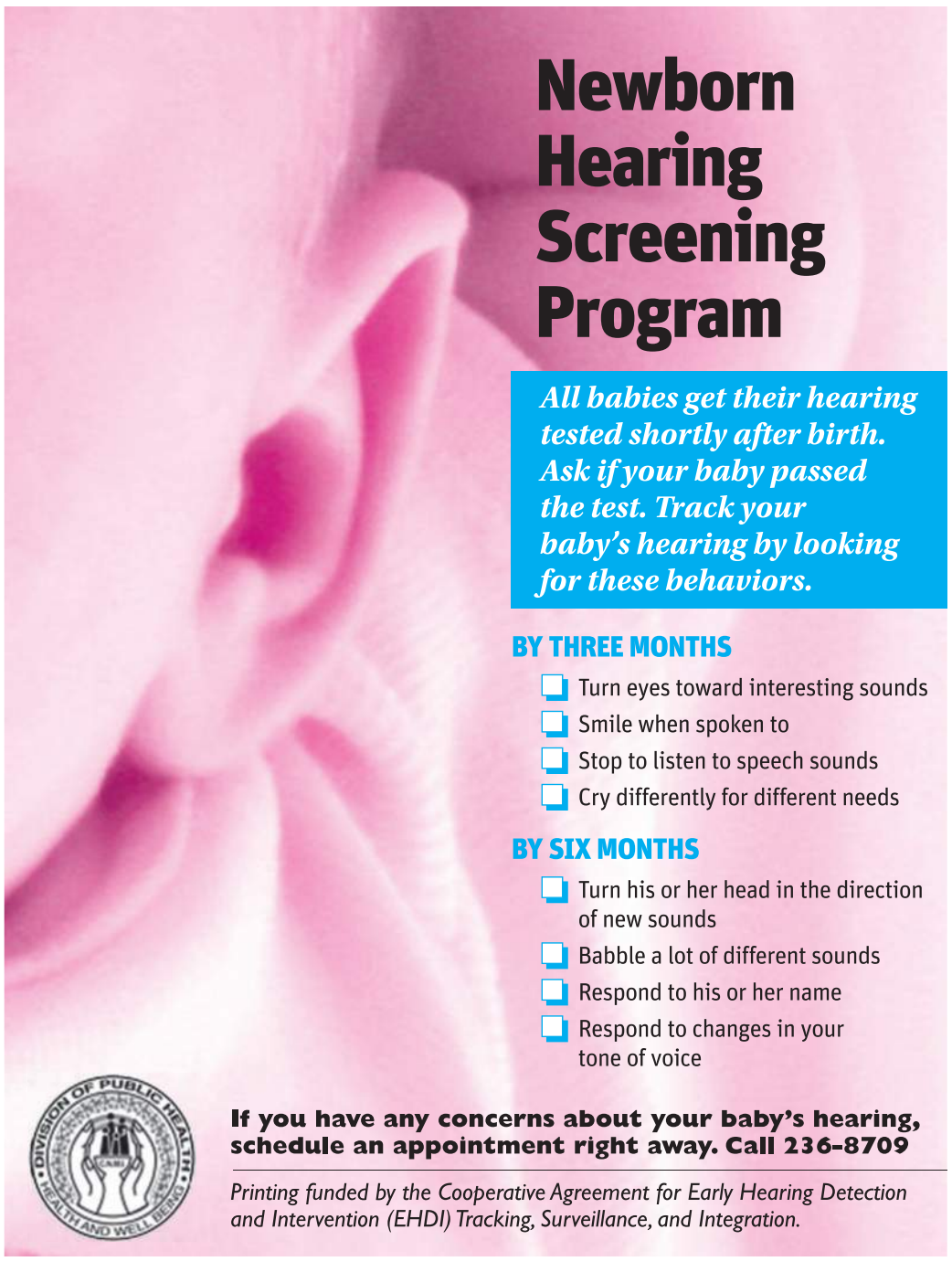
In his Friday order, Wiseman determined that there is a significant risk that Nicholas' representation of Buckingham would be materially limited by his representation of his former clients, the officers involved in the case.

Nicholas undertook representation of Buckingham on Aug. 24, 2012, and then represented officers Jermaine Nekaifes, Myron Laniyo, and Stanley Patris before the 17th CNMI House of Representatives Special Committee on Impeachment.

On Tuesday, Buckingham, through Nicholas, filed a motion asking Wiseman to reconsider his disqualification order.

Buckingham states that the criminal case filed against him has been pending in court since August 2012 and to now require him to seek a new lawyer is unjust.

OPA filed criminal charges against Buckingham in connection with an alleged violation of election laws and illegal award of a sole-source contract, among others.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Man, pimp in alleged sex trafficking of minors to be kept detained

The federal court granted yesterday the U.S. government's motion to continue detaining a firefighter and a woman who were arrested by the FBI last week for alleged sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of two girls.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona determined that there is a serious risk that Richard Sullivan Benavente and Annette Nakatsukasa Basa will not appear and will endanger the safety of another person or the community.

In her order, Manglona said it is presumed that no combination of factors will ensure the appearance of Benavente and Basa and the safety of the community because the charged offense involves two minors and that there is probable cause that they committed the crime.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy, as counsel for the U.S. government, asked the court for the defendants' continued detention pending trial due to the seriousness of the charges.

If convicted, Benavente faces a minimum of 15 years in prison and up to a maximum of 30 years, while Basa faces a minimum of 10 years in prison and up to a maximum of life imprisonment.

Defense attorneys Mark Hanson and Steven Pixley, court-appointed counsels for Benavente and Basa respectively, opposed the motion and asked the court to release the defendants to third-party custodians and upon posting bail.

Preliminary hearing will be on Friday, Aug. 30, at 9am.

Benavente, a 43-year-old CNMI firefighter, allegedly took videos of himself having sex with two 15-year-old girls. Basa allegedly offered the girls to Benavente in exchange for methamphetamine or "ice" and money. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Contracts for 31 new teachers OK'd

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., praised yesterday the Public School System's recruitment efforts after it successfully filled all 31 teaching positions that became vacant at the end of the school year.

However, a few more teachers are still needed, this time to occupy newly vacated post in some schools, she said.

"We have actually processed 31 employment contracts of teachers that we needed for the district. But because we recently lost a few teachers who resigned at the end of this summer, we need to hire a few more for their replacement…and that's ongoing," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday after facilitating a daylong leadership institute for school administrators and program managers at Pacific Islands Club.

» PSS to hire a few more teachers due to new resignations

She said the 31 newly hired teachers will replace those who resigned before the summer period. She could not immediately say how many positions were recently vacated but said that majority are for Saipan schools.

At Saipan Southern High School, two teachers had just resigned and one did on Tinian, she said.

Classes in public schools will open on Sept. 3.

Last school year, PSS only had a little over 400 classroom teachers. The same number is expected this new school year, 2013-2014.

The hiring of additional teachers is contingent upon the new budget that will be allocated to PSS in fiscal year 2014. The budget remains pending at the Legislature.

At yesterday's leadership workshop, Sablan pointed out the importance of the three Rs: recruitment, renewal, and retention.

She disclosed that the human resource office is tasked to submit a comprehensive employment services plan by the end of school year 2013-2014, for the approval of the Board of Education.

Also briefly discussed were the incentive options eyed for employees, among other benefits and rewards.

Saipan Tribune learned that many teachers quit their jobs at the end of the school year due to relocation, retirement, and a few resignations.

Meantime, Sablan could not make an enrollment projection at this time as registration has been extended until the first week of school opening. However, she cited the 5-percent enrollment hike trend at PSS.

Public schools had over 10,000 students from kindergarten to high school last school year.

Man who tried to burn apartment sentenced to 18 months in prison

An ex-convict accused of trying to burn down an apartment building in Chalan Kanoa pleaded guilty yesterday in Superior Court and was slapped with an 18-month prison term.

Joaquin T. Arriola pleaded guilty to reckless burning, a lesser offense of arson, as part of a plea deal.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Arriola to two years in prison, all suspended except for 18 months, to be served without the possibility of parole.

Arriola, 38, was given credit for time served since March 9, 2013, to the present. After completing his sentence, he will be placed on supervised probation for two years.

Arriola was also ordered to pay a $100 fine, $25 court assessment fee, plus probation fee to be assessed later, and required to perform 200 hours of community service. He is prohibited from going within 300 yards of the Elephant barracks throughout his probation, among other conditions.

Arriola started a fire at the Elephant barracks on March 8, 2013, by placing an ice chest on top of a portable gas stove and turning on the stove. The fire charred and damaged a wooden bench, cooler, and the portable stove.

Police investigation showed that Arriola, one of the tenants of the apartment, used a gas stove in the outside kitchen to light up the cooler and some benches. Other tenants immediately extinguished the flames prior to the arrival of firefighters.

A witness told police that prior to the incident, Arriola had been drinking with his girlfriend and another woman in the outside kitchen of the apartment.

The building used to be the barracks of construction workers of Elephant Corp.

In 2006, Arriola pleaded guilty to assault after beating a woman. He was sentenced to two days in prison. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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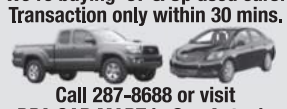
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SENATE

From Page 1

House electronic gaming bill sets aside 60 percent of the fees collected annually to pay the 25-percent cut in retirees' pension as a result of the tentatively approved NMI Retirement Fund settlement agreement.

Rota, Tinian, and Saipan also get a portion of those fees, which proved to be a "contentious" proposition in the beginning of the discussion on the revenue-generating bill.

Meanwhile, as expected, senators restored in the budget bill $2 million for the Department of Public Lands for Rota and Tinian homestead projects and $229,000 for Rota utilities, both of which were cut by the House.

Senators also increased funding for the CNMI Scholarship Program by some $200,000 but reduced the Marianas Visitors Authority funding by the same amount, among other things.

Taimanao said utilities budget was again centralized, except for the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and MVA, among other entities. The governor's utilities budget was $7 million while the Senate version gave it $6 million-plus.

Senators gave the governor additional 75 full-time equivalent for positions that are "essential" to the delivery of public services, 25 more than what the House gave but still 25 less than what the governor had requested.

The Senate passed the budget bill by a vote of 8-0.

The budget measure, House Bill 18-98, House Draft 6, Senate Substitute 1, goes back to the House where it is likely to be rejected.

A conference committee will hash out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill, originally authored by House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan).

During the session, Torres thanked the Fiscal Affairs Committee chair and members, as well as the Legislative Bureau staffers for working on the budget. Taimanao and other senators also took turns thanking each and every one who worked on the spending bill.

Electronic gaming bill

Prior to taking up the budget bill, the Senate deliberated on the electronic gaming bill first after adopting a committee report recommending its passage.

The bill amends the definition of gambling device to exclude electronic gaming machines, which will be installed only at qualified hotels.

If this revenue-generating bill becomes law, it will allow electronic table games such as poker, roulette, blackjack, craps, big wheel, slot machines, baccarat, pai gow and sic bo, and their variations.

The Senate came up with a substitute version of Rep. Tony Sablan's House Bill 18-51, House Draft 4.

Sen. Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan) said the major changes in the bill were the use of the license fees and the increased licensed fees.

Under the Senate version, the license fee per electronic gaming machine is $12,500 or 10 percent of net gaming proceeds. The $12,500 is also the annual license fee for each poker machine on Saipan.

This is much higher than the House version of $2,500 per machine or 10 percent of the net gaming proceeds.

Mike Ernest, associate legal counsel for Bridge Capital and a registered lobbyist in the CNMI, said each machine alone costs $20,000, so a $12,500 annual license fee, for example, would be too steep. He said electronic gaming machines are much more expensive than poker machines.

The Senate version of the bill also requires the Finance secretary to deposit in separate accounts certain percentages of annual license fees for the following: 15 percent for the Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan members, for them to get the interest on their withdrawn contributions; 60 percent for the Retirement Fund account, to pay the 25-percent deferred retirees' pension; 15 percent for Saipan; and the remaining 10 percent for Rota and Tinian.

Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) initially urged the Senate to commit 100 percent of the collected license fees to the Fund and its members. But Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (R-Rota) said the appropriations for Rota and Tinian are a "compromise."

There is still no telling whether the Senate will also pass or reject a pending House bill legalizing casino gaming on Saipan. Casinos are legal only on Rota and Tinian.

Electronic gaming machines will only be allowed at hotels with at least 100 rooms. They could also have fewer than 100 rooms so long as the hotel is attached to a golf course.

The bill goes back to the House.

Senators go over copies of bills during a Senate session that lasted until around 7:30 last night, mainly to pass the $123.4 million budget bill a little over a month before the start of fiscal year 2014. From left, Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), legal counsel Joe Bermudes, and Sens. Victor Hocog (R-Rota), Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), and Joaquin Borja (Ind-Tinian).
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

HOTEL

From Page 1

rapid devaluation of the Japanese yen.

However, it also blamed "the continuing difficulty agents had in securing rooms for last-minute Japanese visitors for this summer because competition for rooms from the Korea and China markets is heating up."

According to MVA records, the Japan market posted a total of 120,585 visitors in the 10-month period from October 2012 through July 2013.

MVA indicated that there was a 6.6 percent drop in airlift from the Japan market following Delta's flight cancellations last month.

Although Asiana Airlines charters from Narita compensates for this air seat loss, MVA said this was not sufficient to cover for the entire shortfall created by Delta's cuts.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that based on the government's inventory, there are only over 2,000 hotel rooms that are currently in operation out of the 3,000 existing rooms on island. He said about 400 rooms are not up to standards and need to be repaired.

Inos said the CNMI has reached a point of saturation on accommodation and that renovating existing hotel rooms is one of its biggest challenges right now.

For the past consecutive months, tourist arrivals have consistently shown double-digit growth, corresponding with remarkable occupancy rates in hotel rooms since early in the fiscal year.

21 pct. hike in July

According to MVA, the Commonwealth experienced a 21-percent growth in its visitor arrivals in July, showing consistent increases in all markets but Japan.

July's visitor arrivals totaled 39,144, a large jump over the 32,478 recorded in July 2012. This marks the biggest increase in arrivals since June 2012.

From the Korea market, arrivals in July this year totaled 13,071—a 15-percent spike from July 2012's total of 11,391. Since the start of fiscal year 2013, the Korea market posted only one month of decline in arrivals: February, by 19 percent.

According to MVA, Asiana Airlines reduced airlift by 1,022 seats in June and July for its Busan flights. However, the airline boosted its Busan flights this August, bringing in 1,833 additional seats. From July 15 to Aug. 31, it will bring in an additional 8,319 seats to the CNMI, sustaining the strong growth of arrivals this summer.

The China market soared by 49 percent in July to 11,177 visitors, in part due to an additional flight from Beijing. A continued rapid growth is projected out of the China market for the remainder of this fiscal year, with travel projected to peak during the national holidays in early October. Arrivals from China in the last 10 months have already exceeded the total number of arrivals from China for all of last fiscal year, 78,928.

Arrivals from Russia more than doubled in July, jumping 127 percent to 977. The Northern Marianas has been receiving bi-weekly direct charter flights from Vladivostok from October 2012 to August 2013 and weekly charter flights from Khabarovsk since March this year, driving the rapid growth out of the Russia market, which is projected to continue for the remainder of this year. Weekly charter flights from Vladivostok will resume in October 2013.

As with China, arrivals from Russia have already surpassed the total number of arrivals from Russia for all of last fiscal year, 9,641.

DORA

From Page 1

took time to pay tribute to Dora and expounded on how much of an inspiration she has been to everyone.

"Today, I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dora Grace Ada Camacho. Princess Dora, as she was lovingly known, inspired our community last year as she battled a very unfortunate setback that left her paralyzed at such a young age," said Gov. Eloy S. Inos in a statement.

"As her case drew our community together, I am truly humbled to have been able to help get her medically transported from [the Commonwealth Health Center] to the Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego. I still remember visiting with Princess Dora at the airport before she was boarded on the plane bound for San Diego. I was deeply moved that even in her most trying moment, Princess Dora still managed to keep a strong and vibrant smile for all her well-wishers. She was truly an inspiration and will be sorely missed, but not forgotten. In this time of sorrow, we extend our sincerest condolences and prayers to the late Dora's mother, Jennifer, and all Dora's family and friends."

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the CNMI has lost a little girl who brought out the best in the community.

"I learned of Dora's passing early this morning and, sad as though I am, I believe she has gone to a better place and will now be free of suffering. Dora leaves behind a memory we can all cherish: the picture of our community forgetting our differences to rally around a young lady who needed our help. She also leaves us with the memory of a frail body that held a strong spirit. For her smile never seemed to waiver and she reminded all of us to cherish what we had. I will always hold Dora's memory in my heart and I know that I am not alone in feeling blessed to have known her."

Victor P. Camacho, Make-A-Wish Guam executive director, said he's heartbroken. He said that Dora's passing hits closer to home because he has known Dora personally.

"Any time a wish kid passes, as an organization, it hits us hard. For me personally, this is the toughest part of the job. Make-A-Wish Guam, which services Guam and the Northern Marianas, grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy."

He said Make-A-Wish Guam is grateful they had the opportunity to grant Dora's wish to have a Cinderella party, held on Oct. 13, 2012, in her hospital room.

"Many thanks go to the CHC medical team and staff for accommodating our wish. Thanks also to the Pacific Islands Club who hosted a wish luncheon for Dora's family," he said.

What he found amazing about Dora was that she brought together so many people from Saipan, Rota, Tinian, Guam, and San Diego, not to mention followers on social media.

"Her story inspired people to want to help, through financial support, gifts, in-kind support, and sometimes just being a friend to the family. Throughout her struggle in the hospital, Dora received unconditional love from her family, her medical team, the community and strangers who just wanted to help in any small way."

Camacho recalls sending an email to a family friend in San Diego, Janice Waller Bouffiou, telling her about Dora's relocation to San Diego for medical treatment.

"I asked Janice to see if she could rally the Guam clubs in San Diego to help make Dora and her mom feel at home by visiting. Janice and her friends not only visited but opened their hearts to Dora—strangers with a common thread, Marianas Island roots, offering help for someone who needed it."

While Make-A-Wish was inspired by the story of a 7-year-old boy named Chris who wanted to become a motorcycle patrol police officer, Camacho said that Dora's story also inspired many who realized that if everyone worked together, "we could accomplish great things."

"To the family of Dora Camacho, may God guide you and bless you. Your angel got her wings and is now in heaven. Thank you for allowing us to grant her wish," said Camacho.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Dora's ordeal started as pain and numbness in her legs that eventually led to paralysis from the neck down. She was admitted to CHC's pediatric ward in May 2012.

The paralysis spread to Dora's waist then her arms and she was moved to the intensive care unit when her ability to breathe deteriorated.

Dora was then sent to the Asian Medical Center in the Philippines for a spinal tap but her spine was too dry. While there was fluid in her neck, doctors were reluctant to take samples from that area because of a surgical procedure she had when she was only 1.

Dora had a brain tumor removed through her neck when she was only 1 year old. Her mother said doctors suspect the surgical site may have become infected and may have contributed to her paralysis, although doctors don't have clear answers yet.

The Ada-Camacho family is still planning Dora's memorial services.

Gradual enforcement of 'P3 Initiative' this school year OK'd

» PSS to launch 'Smarter Balanced Assessment' for English, math
» Preparations underway for 'Next Generation Science'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., discusses with school administrators and program managers her new goals for public schools during a leadership workshop yesterday at Pacific Islands Club.

At a gathering of school administrators and program managers yesterday, Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., unveiled her new goals for school districts, which include the gradual implementation of the "P3 Initiative" beginning this school year.

The "P3 Initiative" is a program that sets a continuous and seamless progression in educating children from pre-school to third grade.

Sablan said the focus starting this school year will be on kindergarten students while succeeding grade levels will be placed under the program in the following years.

According to Sablan, the P3 Initiative will require PSS to go out and visit every home and sit down with the parents of students so they can develop a comprehensive plan on five key components: physical well-being, emotional, social, cognitive development, and health of the child. They will look at what the school system can do to further help children transition from kindergarten to elementary.

Prior to their entry to elementary school, children go through pre-school programs such as Early Childhood, Head Start, and kindergarten.

By phasing in the P3 Initiative, Sablan said that PSS will have more time to work with school counselors, staff, and teachers in terms of giving them the necessary trainings to ensure its smooth implementation.

She said the most crucial years of getting children ready is in their early years and that's in preschool. Researches and studies, she said, are consistent in saying that a continuous and seamless transition to education reduces the gap in student learning that usually arises when they are already in middle and high school years.

"By the time we are gradually implementing it, we cover all four grade levels [kindergarten to third grade]. This plan is really to pay a very close attention to the human growth and development of children in primary grade. That should not be compromised or negotiated," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* during a break in yesterday's leadership workshop at Pacific Islands Club.

Sablan said all five components—physical, emotional, social, cognitive development, and health—are key to preparing a child for school.

Sablan also disclosed yesterday that starting in school year 2014-2015, PSS will implement the "Next Generation Science," a national common standard for science designed to prepare students for college and career readiness after high school.

PSS implemented last school year two national common core standards: English and language arts and math.

"Now that we will be moving in to the Next Generation Science next school year, we will do all the planning this school year with the hope that this will be adopted by the Board of Education for next year's implementation," she said.

With all the technology innovations happening in the world, CNMI students need to adapt to the "science" trend that will aid them in college and their careers, Sablan said.

'Smarter Balance'

PSS gauges the knowledge learned by its students each year using two exams: the Standardized Achievement Test or SAT-10 and Standard Based Assessment tests, or SBA.

SAT-10 is a norm reference test that measures the students' learning in all areas, including core content subjects. SBA is a criterion test of what every student or child is expected to know, and a score is compared to set benchmarks.

Sablan said a new assessment called "Smarter Balance" would be implemented by next school year. It is designed for English language arts and mathematics.

"The SBA [for English language arts and math] will be replaced by Smarter Balance because it's directly aligned with common core standards. Because if we are to measure the performance of students against standards, then we need to identify the assessment that is directly aligned with them," she explained.

Implementation of both the Smarter Balance assessment and Next Generation Science must first be approved by the Board of Education before they can be enforced.

"We'd really like to bring this to the board because this is really about student performance," Sablan said.

SBA and SAT 10 will still be administered, except that SBA on English and math will be replaced by the new Smarter Balance assessment.

"We will replace English and math at SBA, but SBA on science, social studies and others will still be administered," Sablan said.

When asked for the need to shift to this new test, Sablan said: "When you look at assessment, there are two important things: reliability and validity of the assessment. Smarter Balance was developed for the purpose of assessing English and math."

Chamber responds to DOL, DOI queries

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce board recently met with Gov. Eloy S. Inos to discuss issues affecting any future decision by the U.S. Department of Labor to extend the USCIS transitional period for CW-1 permitting of foreign national employees in the CNMI.

According to Chamber executive director Richard A. Pierce, Inos asked for Chamber input in addressing questions posed by U.S. Labor and the U.S. Department of the Interior before a decision is made.

Pierce said the Chamber solicited responses from both the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Saipan chapter of the Society for Human Resources Management. Those responses, as well as the Chamber's, were provided to Inos, he said.

"All responses were strikingly similar from all the associations concerning the necessity to extend the transitional period, the job classifications identified when educational work is underway, listings of those programs and institutions geared toward training U.S. workers available, roadblocks to finding available and qualified labor, forecasting future human resource needs, and economic realities," said Pierce.

"The Chamber looks forward to a favorable and measured response from the U.S. Department of Labor, with respect to the need to extend the CW-1 permit program." ***(SCC)***

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'CNMI as much part of US as Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam'

Not including undocumented aliens in the CNMI in the comprehensive immigration bill currently pending in the U.S. House of Representatives would be an injustice, according to U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance national chair Lioda Nicolas Lewis.

"The United States of America is a nation of immigrants. That is the beauty and the strength of this country. '*Et pluribus unum'* or 'Out of many, one' is the United States motto. The Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands is as much a part of the United States as Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Guam."

Those opposed to giving legal status to undocumented aliens in the Commonwealth are going against the basic tenets that the U.S. was founded on, she said.

"Why should we as a nation not include the undocumented immigrants of the CNMI in this coming immigration reform? That is disloyal to the basic principles of justice and decency that this country is founded on," said Leiws, who is a former general attorney for Immigration and Naturalization Services.

USP4GG legal counsel and spokesperson Ted Laguatan believes that those opposed to legalizing undocumented aliens not only in the CNMI but also in the U.S. do so because of "negative baseless irrational attitudes."

"Understandably, as in the U.S. mainland, many native-born Americans are against the legalization of undocumented immigrants. They do so because of racism, insecurity, fear of immigrants, ignorance, or just plain selfishness."

Regrettably, he said, this sector of the American society tends to forget that they too come from immigrants, whether their forefathers just arrived a generation ago or hundreds of years ago in the U.S. or in the CNMI.

"They also forget that it is America's welcoming humanitarian philosophy toward immigrants that made America unique and the greatest nation on earth with so much diversity and talents from different races, nationalities, and cultures. The CNMI will benefit much with the legalization of undocumented immigrants who will continue to enrich CNMI life with their valuable contributions. Politicians and locals who support their legalization are not only doing the right, humane, moral thing to do but are truly contributing to the future wellbeing of these beautiful islands."

Laguatan said he understands the quandary Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) finds himself in with regards to the immigration debate.

"Like many politicians in the mainland, Rep. Kilili Sablan is understandably caught in the difficult situation of catering to the lesser sentiments of locals whose votes he might lose in the next elections or show unusual courage and greatness by risking his political career by following the lead of his fellow Democrats in the U.S. Senate and President Obama and some Republicans too, who exhibit the noblest human sentiments by supporting the legalization of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. of which the CNMI is surely a part of."

Sablan is an independent but caucuses with Democrats in the House, where he is a non-voting delegate.

Meanwhile, USP4GG Marianas Chapter chair Dr. Celia Lamkin said she is in the process of getting in touch with the rest of the legislative counsels and advisers of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security in order to give them details of the group's petition.

She wants to explain to them the unique situation of the undocumented immigrants and foreign workers in the CNMI.

"The undocumented immigrants should be included in the 11 million undocumented aliens in the U.S. for legalization and may have pathway to citizenship. The legal foreign workers who have been working on or before May 8, 2008 or five years prior to the signing of this immigration bill into law should be given the opportunity to apply for green card. As I have said before, these groups of people will contribute to the economies of the CNMI and U.S. and they are talented, hardworking, skilled, and professional. Since the CNMI is a U.S. territory, we belong to the U.S. family which is a nation of immigrants and of course a diverse culture." ***(Mark Rabago)***

REPAINTING THE PASEO
Two volunteers from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation repaint the Paseo de Marianas walkway. They have been doing this project for almost a week now.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2 suspected 'ice' traffickers fall

Two men were arrested Tuesday for alleged conspiracy to sell methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Fu Xing Chen, 26, and Ren Wei Li, 41, were taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing.

Chen was arrested on charges of trafficking of a controlled substance and attempts and conspiracy to trafficking of a controlled substance. Li, who is also known as Papasang, was arrested on charges of attempts and conspiracy to trafficking of a controlled substance. They are being kept on a $100,000 cash bail each.

Police detective Elias Q. Saralu stated in his report that a "cooperating defendant" told him and another detective on June 13, 2013, that Li sells "ice" at a store in As Lito.

Saralu said the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force did a sting operation against Li on June 14, 2013.

In the parking lot of a store, Chen allegedly received $300 in marked money from the "cooperating defendant" and Saralu, who went undercover. Chen then allegedly handed them a box that contained 1.1 gross grams of "ice."

Saralu said the second buy-walk operation against Li happened on June 28, 2013. During the operation, Saralu said, Li referred them to another Chinese man, who later handed them a cigarette pack that contained 1.3 gross grams of "ice" in exchange for $300 in marked money in the parking lot of a store in Koblerville.

Saralu said the third operation against Li was on Tuesday in the parking lot of the same store in As Lito where the "cooperating defendant" bought 1.7 grams of "ice" worth $300 from Chen.

The surveillance team then moved in and arrested Chen.

Police learned that it was Chen who handled the transaction in Koblerville.

Later that same day, the detectives arrested Li in As Lito. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Guam gov threatens veto of Senate budget

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo is threatening to veto a budget passed by the territorial Senate that includes salary increases for government employees and cost of living increases for retirees.

Pacific Daily News reports the Senate approved the bill Tuesday.

Calvo called the budget fiscally irresponsible. He says the Guam government doesn't have the funds to pay for amendments added by senators.

That includes $10.9 million for salary increases, plus $11 million in cost of living allowances. The cost of living allowances are $4 million more than what Calvo asked for.

The budget also includes a plan to use credit to pay merit bonuses for the judiciary and education departments that date back to 1991.

Calvo says the senators are making "empty promises" that would lower the government's credit rating and increase interest rates. He said he won't support paying the bonuses unless the territory uses real funding.

"I'm not going to lie to these employees," he said. "And I'm not going to risk the government's credit just to score some political points."

Sen. Ben Pangelinan, the Democratic chairman of the Legislature's finance committee, says Calvo has the option of eliminating expensive items in the budget through a line-item veto. But Pangelinan says the budget allocates funds appropriately.

The vote fell along party lines, with eight Democrats voting for the budget and six Republicans against it. Republicans are urging Calvo, also a Republican, to veto the bill.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE OF THE AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND AT PORT OF SAIPAN.
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-011-13

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) invites written sealed proposals from qualified air-conditioning and refrigeration firms to provide full Preventive Maintenance Service of the Air-Conditioning Units at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and at Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The term of the preventive maintenance services shall be for two (2) years. CPA at its sole option may extend the services for an additional two (2) years.

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning August 2, 2013 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The Proposal Package includes the Scope of Services and other considerations upon payment of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) to be paid at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor of the Departure Terminal Building. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the RFP. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Air-Conditioning Units at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and at Port of Saipan, Project No. CPA-RFP-011-13."** One (1) original and three (3) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. LOCAL TIME, August 29, 2013, to the Office of the Executive Director at the aforementioned location.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel. (670) 664-2587 • Fax. (670) 664-2547

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Division of Historic Preservation Office under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs hereby give notice that a regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board will be held on August 23, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. at the Office on Aging "Man'amko Center".

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes

II PUBLIC COMMENTS

III REPORTS
1. Secretary's Report
2. Field Reports (Saipan/Tinian/Rota)

IV OLD BUSINESS
1. Section 106 Military Development/Responses
2. Recommendations from Board on Section 106 Communications

V NEW BUSINESS
1. Budget FY 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
2. Policy Matters
3. Appointment of Special Advisory Committee
4. Board Trainings Re: Section 106 "Essential & Advanced Courses"

VI OTHER MATTERS
1. Reports on New Proposal on Military Development on Tinian and Pagan
2. Proposed Projects on Fiscal Year 2013 Budget
3. Discussion on Signage/Fencing on Established Historical Sites (Rota-Water Cave)
4. Miscellaneous

VII ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Tom Glenn A. Quitugua
Chairman of the Board

Interior awards 300K grant to NMC for AC retrofit

The U.S. Department of Interior recently awarded the Northern Marianas College a $300,000 grant award to replace antiquated air-conditioning equipment with energy efficient units.

The funds will be used to implement a high-efficiency air-conditioning unit retrofit project, which will be overseen by the college's facilities manager, John Guerrero.

"We are extremely grateful to have been selected to receive this substantial grant from the Department of the Interior," said Guerrero. "That agency receives many, many grant proposals every year, and we are glad that the college's efforts to become even more energy efficient has been recognized as one of the priorities."

"I commend dean Ross Manglona, John Guerrero, and others at the college for their work in preparing this grant proposal," said NMC president Sharon Hart, Ph.D. "I know they are already working on identifying other additional sources of funding that we can tap for the benefit of our students."

In the grant proposal, the college indicated that it currently has about 160 air-conditioning units, of which 136 need to be replaced.

According to Guerrero, most of the existing A/C units at the college also have a low "seasonal energy efficiency ratio" (SEER rating), which means that the units are operating with very low efficiency. Additionally, they use the R22 refrigerant, which is being phased out in the U.S. due to its very high potential to exacerbate ozone-depletion.

Hart

"The grant will allow the college to retrofit its air-conditioning units to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and to reduce operational costs at NMC," said Guerrero. "It will also allow us to reduce kilowatt usage for cooling by 25 percent upon installation of new units."

The grant award to NMC was made through the U.S. Department of Interior Office of Insular Affairs' Empowering Insular Communities program. The confirmation of the award was made in a letter addressed to Hart from acting assistant secretary for insular affairs Eileen Sobeck.

The air-conditioning retrofit project is part of the college's overall efforts to reduce its utility expenses. Since last year, the college has instituted a number of other energy-saving measures, including the installation of LED lights in all classrooms and offices, limitations on air-condition use throughout the day, and other measures.

"We will continue to aggressively pursue other initiatives that reduce the college's expenses on its utilities and that promote more environmentally-friendly activities," said Hart. ***(NMC)***

FAQs on Affordable Care Act now available

The Consumer Assistance Program, under the CNMI Department of Commerce, announced yesterday the publication of nearly 40 FAQs regarding the Affordable Care Act in the CNMI. These FAQs are available to the public on the CAP office's temporary website, cnmicap.wordpress.com.

Consumer Advocacy Officer Kaitlyn Mocanu expects this information will generate interest from the public and raise awareness of the Jan. 1, 2014, effective date of many Affordable Care Act provisions. In addition to providing some answers, Mocanu hopes the FAQs will bring in many more questions from the public.

ON THE NET
cnmicap.wordpress.com

"It is important for CNMI residents to know that many of the health insurance reform provisions of the Affordable Care Act do apply to their health insurance. Transparency is a crucial element of the ACA and the public is encouraged to ask questions and ensure their federally-mandated rights are being upheld," said Mocanu. "Everyone should educate themselves on their new rights and protections under the ACA; the CAP office is here to facilitate that education."

The intention of the Affordable Care Act is to make affordable health care available to all Americans and, thanks to the ACA amendments made to the Public Health Service Act, residents of U.S. territories are included.

"As more people become aware of the Affordable Care Act, it will become clear to them that the ACA is a blessing for the CNMI," stated Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar. "Previous to this Act, there was virtually no regulation of the health insurance industry nor surveillance of industry practices. The ACA puts power into the hands of the health care consumer".

Insurance regulation has traditionally been a responsibility of the state. While many states in the mainland have been closely regulating health insurance for many years, the CNMI has never put aside funding or personnel to undertake the comprehensive overhaul needed. Because of laws now already established by the federal government and funding made possible by the ACA, the CNMI has a chance to "catch up" to the states in reforming health care.

"I believe the Affordable Care Act gives the CNMI a chance to improve our health care industry and public health, especially when we know, based on the 2010 Census, that more than 30 percent of CNMI residents do not have health insurance," said Gov. Eloy S. Inos. "Although we must adopt this federal law, we must keep in mind the unique circumstances of our Commonwealth and make this law work for us."

Inos highlighted the importance of upholding the intent of the Affordable Care Act along with the rules that govern it. This, according to the governor, will require the technical support of the federal government.

"We will make every effort to use this opportunity to mitigate any socio-economic impact on the ACA and work with [U.S. Health and Human Services] and our U.S. Delegate to extend the same funding subsidies given to other States under the Individual and Employer mandate," said Inos.

Currently, ACA-related legislation is being reviewed for introduction to the House and the premium rate review process is scheduled to be ready for insurance premium rate submissions on Oct. 1, 2013.

Learn more about the Affordable Care Act in the CNMI at cnmicap.wordpress.com or email questions to advocacyoffice@commerce.gov.mp. ***(Office of the Governor)***

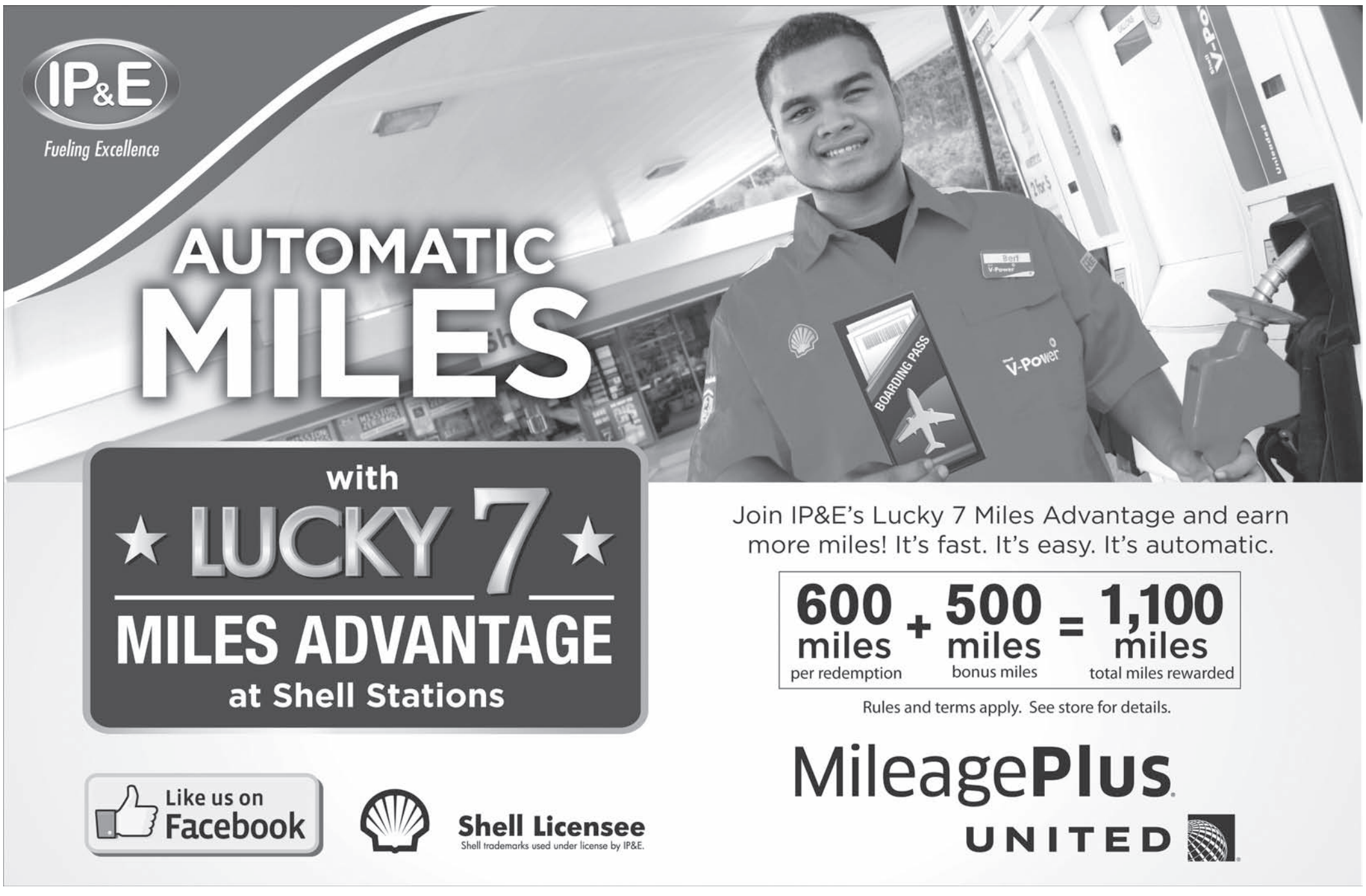
Five Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged five beach sites on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected beaches are at San Roque School, Sea Plane Ramp, DPW channel bridge, Chalan Piao beach, and Hopwood School beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainages every Wednesday. ***(DEQ)***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USCIS warns of new telephone scam

The Public Engagement Division of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services warned the public yesterday of a new telephone scam targeting USCIS customers.

According to a USCIS statement, most of the victims who have notified USCIS about this scam are non-immigrants from India. Scammers use a technique called "Caller ID spoofing" to display a misleading or inaccurate phone number in a recipient's caller ID. The scammer pretends to be a USCIS official and asks for personal information such as Social Security number, passport number, or alien number. They claim there are problems with the person's immigration records, and ask for immediate payment to correct those records.

"If you receive a call like this, we urge you to say 'No, thank you' and hang up immediately," USCIS said.

USCIS stressed that it never asks for payment or personal information over the phone.

"Any request we make for payment would come in the mail on USCIS letterhead stationery. Do not give payment or personal information over the phone to anyone who claims to be a USCIS official. We encourage you to protect your personal information and not to share details about your immigration case in any public area," the USCIS statement adds.

If you have been a victim of this telephone scam, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/, or report it to an appropriate state authority. Visit www.uscis.gov/avoidscams for information on where to report scams in one's state.

If you have a question about your immigration record, call the National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283, or make an InfoPass appointment by visiting the USCIS website at http://infopass.uscis.gov/. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

PROMO WINNERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Benjamin Schiff, center, of Guam wins a trip for two to see Rihanna's Diamond World Tour as part of Budweiser's "Made For Music Festival Flyaway" promotion, according to an announcement yesterday by Ambros Inc.

Doreen Causing, center, of Guam, wins a trip for two to the two-day Budweiser Made In American Music Festival in Philadelphia as part of Budweiser's "Made For Music Festival Flyaway" promotion, according to an announcement yesterday by Ambros Inc. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Federal grant opportunities

The Office of Grants Management announces several federal grant opportunities for the following:

1. **Cooperative Partnership for Evaluating Wetland Conservation and Waterfowl Abundance:** *The Service's National Standards and Support Team is responsible for the development and application of all digital data functions relating to the Service's wetland maps and habitat data holdings. Providing geospatial data, supporting data modeling and analysis capabilities in support of the Ecological Services function of the Service is a priority for this Team*

Eligible applicants: Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

For the full description of the grant, access grants.gov or the direct link at: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=239714

2. **FY13 National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program:** *FEMA proposes to award cooperative agreements with NESEC, CUSEC, WSSPC, CREW, EERI, SCEC and FLASH to support critical earthquake risk reduction activities and other related hazards. These will include support to earthquake education, building code adoption and enforcement, seismic mitigation and emergency management planning, stakeholder engagement and partnership, local earthquake policy development, etc.*

Eligible applicants: Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

For the full description of the grant, access grants.gov or the direct link at: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=240093 ***(Office of the Governor)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 22, 2005

Homestead moratorium lifted

The Marianas Public Lands Authority lifted Friday the moratorium on the acceptance of applications for villages and agricultural homesteads for the islands of Saipan and Rota. The MPLA board of directors made the decision at the request of Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who wrote the agency regarding the matter earlier this year. The moratorium has been in effect since Oct. 1, 2002 and affected village homestead applications for Saipan and village and agricultural homestead applications for Rota. MPLA imposed the moratorium due to the dwindling inventory of public lands. A statement issued by the MPLA quoted Peter Callaghan, the governor's press secretary, as saying: "The governor is pleased that the MPLA board has lifted the restrictions on this very vital project for the CNMI and its people."

CDA opposes debt relief for CUC

The Commonwealth Development Authority expressed strong opposition to a new bill that seeks to grant debt relief to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., calling instead for the implementation of the settlement agreement signed by both parties for the $45-million loan. House Bill 14-362, authored by Vice Speaker Timothy P. Villagomez, should be summarily rejected, CDA added. In a written comment on H.B. 14-362, CDA noted that the measure is the fourth attempt at the House of Representatives to write off CUC's $45-million debt to CDA. "We have opposed it each time and submitted written comments. Please forgive us if the following appears repetitive for some members of the Legislature but CDA reiterates its previous opposition with equal fervor," CDA said before offering its comments.

August 22, 2006

Retirees group wants to see Fund lawyer

A retirees group is exploring the possibility of getting assistance from the NMI Retirement Fund's in-house legal counsel James Hollman regarding the existing lawsuit by the agency against the government. David Igitol, president of the NMI Association of Retired Persons, said in an interview yesterday that the group is set to hold a meeting by the end of this month. "We can possibly invite the lawyer to that meeting to brief us and see what he can do for the retirees," said Igitol. As far as he knows, he said that Hollman has not directly assisted retirees for a possible case against the government.

Saipan's US Attorney's Office has no chief

The U.S. Attorney's Office Saipan Branch has no chief at present, the *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday. Sources said Craig Moore was recently removed as chief of the U.S. Attorney's Office Saipan branch for unknown reasons. Mae Blas, public information officer for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Guam, confirmed in a telephone interview that Moore is no longer the chief of the U.S. Attorney's Office Saipan Branch. But Blas stated that Moore is still working at the Saipan branch as an assistant U.S. attorney. When asked for the reason behind Moore's removal from the chief position, Blas replied: "We cannot discuss personnel matters."

August 22, 2007

Prices of goods record high in Q2

The cost of basic consumer goods hit another record high in the second quarter of 2007, according to data from the Department of Commerce. The consumer price index for the period between April and June 2007 increased 13.4 index points, compared with the same period one year ago. From 100.3 in the second quarter of 2006, the CPI for all goods and services climbed to 113.7 in the second quarter of this year. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost $100 during the 2003 base period cost $113.7 in April-June 2007. The latest CPI is the highest since 2000.

'Sept. will be worst month for tourism'

The Marianas Visitors Authority is bracing itself for September, which is projected to be the worst month this year for the tourism industry in the CNMI. In a presentation to the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday, MVA board chair Jerry Tan said this prediction is based on the scheduled downsizing of aircraft flying in from Japan next month. By Sept. 4, Northwest will be flying in using an Airbus instead of its usual Boeing 747 planes.

Performances cap after-school and summer program

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lino Olopai teaches participants of San Isidro Youth Learning Center's 2013 After School & Summer Cultural Activity the finer points of sailing and water crafting activity.

The San Isidro Youth Learning Center capped its 2013 After School & Summer Cultural Activity with a live ukulele performance and traditional Carolinian "Ma'as" dances last Aug. 16.

The final activity, held from 10am to 12pm, was for the benefit of the activity's participants, artisans, volunteers, and youth leaders and the performers themselves were participating children who were eager to showcase the skills they acquired during the after-school and summer program.

Bryan Manabat, CNMI Motheread Program designated site coordinator, said that certificates of participation and school supplies were given out to program participants, who were from 6 to 13 years old. He said a total of 58 children registered for the program.

The after-school and summer program finale brought together Laly 4 community members, collaborating organizations, and individuals for the short celebration. Division of Youth Services-Community Services Block Grant program coordinator Jennifer Tanaka, Library Council vice chair Mark Rabauliman, and Humanities Program officer Lolly Villagomez each gave congratulatory remarks for all attendees.

Traditional artisans, volunteers, and youth leaders were also recognized for their valuable contributions, and for their generosity of time and energy toward the completion of the 2013 SIYLC's After School & Summer Cultural Activity.

The series of activities at the San Isidro Center started on April 9, giving children continuing learning experiences through reading, cultural literacy, and health literacy by physical activities. Children learned additional knowledge and skills of traditional island know-how and outside classroom activities that promoted positive behavior and healthy lifestyle choices.

Activities were held either at the center, surrounding beaches, or at historical and tourist sites of Saipan. The San Isidro Youth Learning Center is located at Laly 4, Chalan Kanoa beside Sandy Beach Homes and near the former Pacific Gardenia.

The SILYC's 2013 After School & Summer Cultural Program is a Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-Division of Youth Services' Community Services Block Grant in collaboration with the CNMI Motheread Program through the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. The program activity is under the direct supervision of the council's Motheread Program coordinator Viola Deleon Guerrero, while its weekly implementation was carried out by Manabat.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ed Kaipat leads participants of the beginner's ukulele lessons during their performance at the finale of San Isidro Youth Learning Center's 2013 After School & Summer Cultural Activity last Aug. 16.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants practice the traditional Carolinian "Bwaii" dances.

The program allowed financially transitioning families to avail of meaningful, cultural, and interactive sports free of charge that is traditionally not offered during the school year.

Motheread enlisted the cultural expertise of indigenous artisans, themselves citizens and parents, to teach the children various cultural and traditional games, instilling in them a stronger appreciation of their cultural heritage by way of integrated traditional activities as a natural part of island life.

Activities were led by a traditional artisan or a youth leader volunteer. Edwin Kaipat taught ukulele beginner lessons, Bruce Iglecias was in charge of fundamental basketball, sailing and ocean know-how was conducted by Lino Olopai, Owen Kaipat took the reins in art painting, Dionicia Taitano taught *mwaar* making, Remedies Seman gave lesson on coconut weaving, instructors for traditional cooking were Tina Kaipat, Jessica Kaipat, and Tara Joan Kaipat. Timothy Kapileo gave pointers on hiking, bead making was Mary Eleonor Kapileo, Ignacia Reyes was responsible for Read Aloud & Crafts, traditional indoor/outdoor games were administered by John Sanchez, Sammy Kapileo, Sylvester Kapileo, Clyde Kaipat, Frances Joan Kaipat, and Erlynda Elewel; while traditional Carolinian dances were taught by Cathalina Kapileo, Patrick Kapileo, and Ramona Kapileo.

Supporting volunteers were made up of Elbaed Aderwangel, Samantha Aderwangel, and Ephanchenina Kapileo.

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the participants, artisans, youth volunteers, and parents for their roles in making our SILYC's 2013 After School & Summer Cultural Activity successful and following a mindset of 'safety-first attitude' for an incident-free event. We truly apologize if we missed anyone who was not acknowledged. Again thank you to the support and energy provided for the promotion and development of our future leaders," said Manabat.

The summer cultural activities are extended to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library patrons; it is currently scheduled every Saturday for the month of August 2013. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

King of the Grill tilt this Saturday

The Budweiser King of The Grill competition will be held this Saturday at the Godfather's Beach House at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

A total of eight teams will be taking part in the amateur barbecue grilling competition and proceeds from the event will go to the Autism Society of the CNMI.

The competition starts at 5pm. The first place team will go home with $300. The second place team will pocket $200, while the third place team will earn $100.

The Budweiser King of The Grill is sponsored by Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Saipan Apparel, *Marianas Variety*, Coca-Cola, Kikoman, and Joeten Enterpises, Inc. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 1st birthday to our son, Jayce Anthony Dris Alepuyo, who shines like the sun in every part of our lives! Just like yesterday, we welcomed you to this beautiful world 12 months ago. May every glowing candle on your cake transform into a wish that will turn into reality. We love you always! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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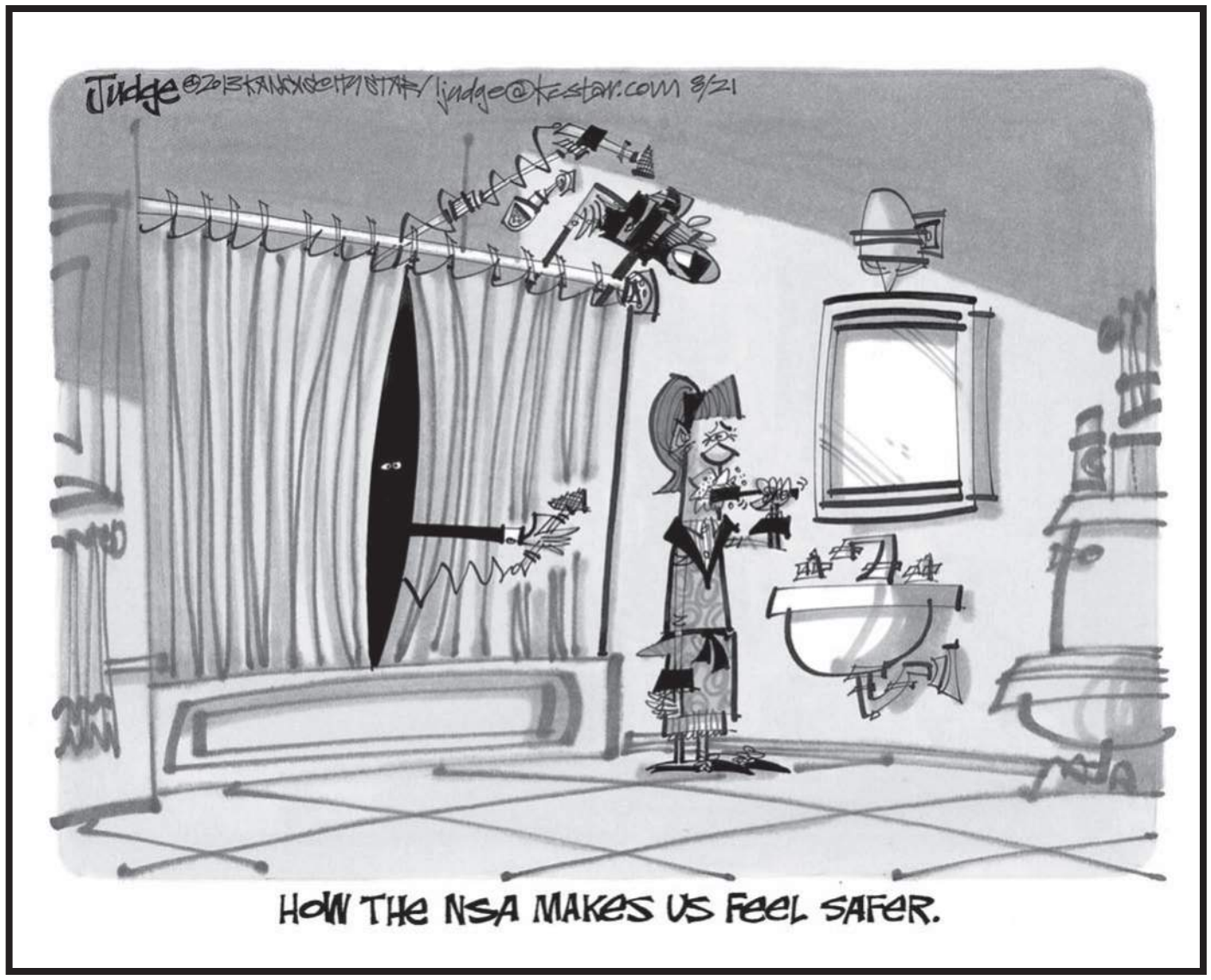
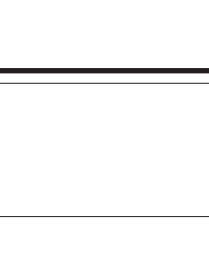
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association



Egypt in the rearview mirror



By ANDREW J. BACEVICH
Los Angeles Times

Andrew J. Bacevich is a professor of history and international relations at Boston University. His new book is Breach of Trust: How Americans Failed Their Soldiers and Their Country. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

When it comes to Egypt, the U.S. has little leverage and therefore no real options. That's according to the prevailing wisdom, at least.

Yet this analysis—endlessly reiterated in mainstream commentary—is misleading. The absence of leverage does not preclude options. It certainly does not require the Obama administration to debase itself by pretending that the military overthrow of a freely elected government is not a coup or by accepting the Egyptian army's slaughter of civilians with no more than a tsk-tsk. The administration may choose to do these things, but not because circumstances oblige it to do so.

Identifying our options in Egypt requires examining U.S. policy in a broader context, since the events unfolding in that country are emblematic of a much larger failure.

It may help to recall how the United States forged its perverse relationship with the Egyptian army in the first place. That relationship dates from the 1978 Camp David accords brokered by President Jimmy Carter. Rather than receiving a commission, the broker in this case ended up on the hook, promising to compensate the contracting parties for doing what each had agreed to do. From that day to the present, the United States has annually funneled billions of taxpayer dollars to Egypt and Israel. Rather than furthering the cause of mutual understanding—funding education programs or cultural exchanges, for example—most of that money has gone to the purchase of advanced weaponry.

What are we to make of this arrangement? Writing in the *New York Times*, Thom Shanker and Eric Schmitt recently noted that "in the four decades before Camp David, Israel and Egypt fought several major wars; in the nearly four decades since, none."

True enough, and a welcome development. Yet no less true, if much less welcome, is this: In the four decades before Camp David, the U.S. had managed to steer clear of war in the Middle East; in the nearly four decades since, U.S. involvement in hostilities throughout the region has become routine, with little to show as a result.

What becomes clear in retrospect is that Camp David mattered less as a milestone on the road to peace than as a departure point signaling a radical transformation of U.S. policy. Before Camp David, in the Pentagon's eyes, the region had qualified as an afterthought. After Camp David—and especially as the Cold War wound down—it became the center of attention.

Underlying the shift in U.S. policy inaugurated by Carter was the expectation that military "engagement" (to use a favorite Pentagon term) was going to enhance U.S. leverage throughout the region. Leverage adroitly applied, whether directly or through proxies, would enable the U.S. to promote stability and perhaps eventually help pacify the Middle East. As a means of solving problems, or at least keeping them manageable, military power was displacing diplomacy.

In the years that followed, in ways that Carter himself neither envisioned nor intended, a flurry of military activity ensued. Egypt and (in its way) Israel became Washington's favored prox-

See EGYPT on **Next Page**

Ego and selfhood

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

The Philippine story of creation endears those of us born beautiful! Not just a tad bit racial but when I first heard the story, racial overtones were still just a source of levity, even as the monkey was referred to as *tsonggo* in Pilipino, resembling in sound of the word for people of the Middle Kingdom, "Zhongguoren." The "ts" for the monkey is not as strong as the "dj" sound of the "zh," but in the taunting voices of children, it did not make that much of a difference.

The head baker oven-baked his/her/its first human creation, but it was overdone. That gave us West Africans. Then the creator did it again but it was underdone. Came the Caucasians. A third try, made with confidence, was still too brown, so we got lots of Indians. The fourth attempt got a tint of yellow that glowed, the shine causing eyes to squint. There were as many as the dark browns. Desperately, the fifth trial, carefully adjusted, still came out a bit on the tan side. Finally, in an act of inspired intuition and creative innovation, a beautiful brown creature emerged. It was the sixth day. The Malay was born. On the seventh day, the inexperienced baker rested.

Not a very flattering take on the creator, but in the telling comes the drama of the story, and a glimmer of the self-hood affirmation of the street-smart, worldwise *Pinoy,* if one was playing attention.

Freud brought out three categories of self-consciousness: the "id" that delights in the pleasures of the flesh, making hedonism appropriate to the category; the "superego" elevates one to sainthood, even going beyond to usurp the position of angels—Lucifer incarnate, the angel wants to dethrone the ultimate will; and the "ego" at the level of human consumption, healthy, modulated and balanced. Self-identity gains respectability.

So, how come the word "egotistical" has such a negative connotation?

Indo-European languages are judgmental. Three millennia of self-denigration were preceded by myths from the Levant that has the human race at the entrance gate of *dejado,* likely to lose. Or, at least, the finger pointing in the Garden of Eden had lasting implications on self-image. Ergo, we created the need for a Messiah to save members of the human race from natural perdition into the glory of redemption. In the Western telling, "ego" was naturally too self-serving, thus immediately suspect. The same story still holds true to the modern human except the messiah has since become material abundance in a state of emotional satisfaction with certainty in the midst of doubt, and on solid assurance in the absence of adequate information.

The perennial conflict of one reality battling its opposite is so deeply engrained in our minds that such virtues as competition, and the mammoth structures of the military as a programmatic necessity is a dialectic that precludes a state of perpetual contradiction. If fear is modus operandi, fault-finding is modus vivendi. We locate someone to blame. "Eve made me do it," says Adam while Eve lifts an eyebrow and demurely turns her nose in the direction of the snake. When something goes wrong, politics seeks one to blame before it tries to understand what exactly transpired. Poor Fitial, he gets all the blame for whatever ails the Northern Marianas, and Obama, the U.S. of A.!

There is another perspective, more demonstrably real among those who acknowledge a dichotomy of opposites in nature but, rather than focus on its limits, concentrate on its possibilities.

We borrow the ancient symbols of the *taiji* (yin-yang) in the middle of the *pugua.* The usual two-dimensional picture of the yin-yang found on *taekwondo* posters is deceiving since it focuses more on contradictional dichotomy rather than the unity of opposites, complementariness. Were one to view the yin-yang as a three-dimensional orb on a spin motion, the two dots on the two teardrops would become a single active pivot point that continually affirms opposites but keeps them together, separate but in equilibrium. That is a more dynamic and realistic picture of the way life is, how one holds on to one's sense of selfhood, how the social process operates, rather than opposites in continual combat unto eternity!

The ego is at best viewed in the West as the synthesis between the thesis of id and its antithesis, the superego. But the ego is a condemned category, so "selfhood" in the image of the yin-yang is a more appropriate metaphor.

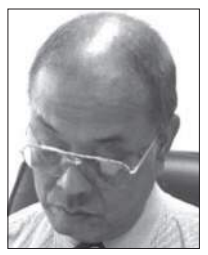
Dialectic offers its own gifts. From the center, the *wu fang* fifth directional point in the east-west-north-south spread, points upwards and downwards, the transcendent and immanent perspectives, the airy view from Olympus v. the balmy cold of the empty tomb, adding aspects of clarity from being able to step outside one's situation, and the meditative power of hanging over the abyss on the profundity of one's existence, and we gain a mysterious picture of the stillness at the center tranquil!

If I've lost you, not to worry! Focus not on what I wrote. Ask why you think you are lost!

Transparency at the center is finally our valedictory out of this page, and we shall tread that thread until the end of August.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Bailan chaole gi menan fugera



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Otru sakan hinalom tiempun politika. I guaha guinifen niha siempre umapresenta dibuenamente fina' planu. Todu klasen bailan fayau siempre umafattan ñaihon.

Guaha ti umahñau ha repite fumatta hagas planu ni tiha chogue pa'gu. Lau ha ta'lun lumegua' gi la te'ug na sopas dinage. Ha tatkigue' sa' ha tuñgu' na mampos esta paguan i kinilag gi ge' papa'.

I otru mampos hasupak hinalomña na kulan naofragu (pasaherun mafondun batku). Ayu mas hana' oppan i malago-gue' gumubietnu. 'An mafaisen haf' bidaña, chupun ya ha eskapaye i kuestion. Un' kapitan ni tiha tuñgu' manaita kompas (compass) maseha pot para satbasioña.

Konsidera pot un' ratu manu para uttimun linala' publiku yangin para ta repite i hagas malabida yan diskuidu siha. De dios fan manhassu! Estague' numesessita la bibu na bailan fayau ya u fan makonduse huyuñg i man-chatkabayeru gi puntan tasi! 'An un' sotta guihe huyuñg, choneg ya un' dispide "adios my fileñge".

Saludu Sgt. Maj. Cepeda

Humanau para i taihinekog na deskansoña i atuñgo'ta as Sergeant Major Frank G. Cepeda. Desde pinatgoña ansianu umadelantan maisague'. Guiya i mafanana'an prefektu sindalun sindalu (soldier of soldiers) pot eskalera ni ha gacha' gi militat.

Maseha felis offisioña kumu sergeant major tatnai talie' sumeha man-ayuda gi tautau-ta siha. Ha choneg i man-hoben man-eyag man-macho'chu' para u makomprende impottansian regalu ginen petsonat na animu. Ala kuenta ha fanunue' man-hoben na tat ti siña kumu un' fachochu'e.

Hagas hu konsidera i defuntu kumu unu gi appenas na modelu gi karerahu mismu. Guiya i ma'lag na luseru ni fumanue'yu' na tat ti siña gi hilu' metgot na sensia fumachuchu'e guinifimu. Humidde na prohimu, machuchuda' sensian integridat, modelon todus. Si Yuus Maase Sergeant Major. Bai'n hahassu hau yan familiamu gi tinayuyot mame. Sen mas, Si Yuus Maase`!

Mattirun tiempu

Mas ma-umenta i numeron familia ni para u fan hanau lagu America pot taya' cho'chu' yan appottunidat guine. Esta hana' loddu' agagahu este na sentimentu ni finañagun diskuidun man-sabiun hegsu' I Deni'.

"Yangin ni patgonhu nietu ti siña makone' gi eskuelan publiku guine pot mampos bula famaguon pues kase guiya este i uttimu suspirus minesñgun", segun un' saina.

"I planun ma-utot pagamientun man-ritirau sumimientun disision mame man-hanau. Libianu kinalamten familia gi haf' tetehnan sa' baratu mas gaston nesessidat guihe lagu".

I gaston linala' guine i primera trompison familia siha gi kada isla entalu' Saipan, Tinian yan Luta. Mas guaguan gaston maseha hafa gi dos tanu'. Sumen makat na tiru para i dididi sueddon niha.

Hagas hu nañgga i "nancy boys" gi hegsu' I Deni haf' na ineppe guaha pot para uma-ribaha gaston linala'. Ni unu malagu' umatrebigue' sa matuñgu klaru na sumen taya' bidan niha pot este na asuntu. Lau diariu mana' mafñot i kotbatan Sears Roebuck. De dios mihu!

Diberas mampos makat i kinalamten tautau-ta siha maseha manu na soñgsoñg. Mampos lokue' man-tañga, bachet yan udu i man-maelihe gi destrosiau na ha'anen linahyan. Esta pa'gu ti masosoda' manu gaige pettan sanmena yan santatte. A` Saina!

Kadu' Ma'gas

Malagu' i amiguhu mama' ma'gas. Ha faisenyu' haf' debi u chogue para u fattu guihe na eskalera 'sino estau. Hu soyu' na u famahan kotbataña gi katalagun Sears Roebuck ya 'an mattu guahu bai' godde ya u asentadu.

'Nai mattu kotbataña hu aregla. Hu kone' hulu' gi hegsu' I Deni ya lumiliku' gi halom administrasion yan lehislatura.

Ilegña, "Paire! A'todu a'soda' a'saluda este mage". Yaña i motmut saludu piot 'nai malie' na kinetbabata. Mampos nina' magof sa' masaludague'.

Hu faisen haf' mohon hinassoña na masaludague'? "A'lie' este mage kotbata ya hinassoña este guatu na koñgressu este mage". Manadan saludu ma-echa i prohimu.

Hu ñañgun na ahe' ti masaludague' pot kotbataña soluke pot kilisyanu. Lalalu'. "Este mage kako' ma'gas, ayu guatu a'saluda este mage sa' ma'gas". Huna' ma'udai dispues para i public works 'nai machochochu' kumu janitor. Hu faisen para u ripot giya guahu 'an guaha mañaluda. Magpu' ha' i che'chu' ya kada ratu ma-estuppeha para u yute' basula. A` Saina bidan niha ni amiguhu.

■ ■ ■ ■

Hu pasensiaye pot haf' mohon hinassoña na broke i gobietnon iya Marianas. Ilegña, "A'debi este guatu a'eyag a'tufuñg 'a-one, a'two, a'three' sa' tininae' YA a'tai tiempu a'lache. A'speeding este guatu, ti a'kabales i salape". A` Saina!

Ha faisenyu' dispues haf' taimanu tuñgo'hu na bonita i palao'an. Ensegidas hu na'yan: "'An pagu man-mata, bonita; kumate, bonita; aplacha' maskaran mataña, bonita, todu bonita maseha ke ora". Huna' fonhayan kontodu pot chatpagu: "Pa'gu hagu yan guahu, chatpagu hit na dos hombre i birag ma'añau humihot". Todas! Ai na grasia, diberas.

America's nation-building at gunpoint

By GIAN GENTILE
Los Angeles Times

Gian Gentile is an Army colonel who commanded a combat battalion in west Baghdad. He holds a doctorate in history and is the author of Wrong Turn: America's Deadly Embrace of Counterinsurgency. *The views expressed are the author's alone. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

Many years ago the British historian and strategist B.H. Liddell Hart pointed out that the object of war should be to produce a "better state of peace." If that is what earns a war a passing grade, then the United States deserves a failing grade for Afghanistan and Iraq.

During the American occupation in Iraq between 2003 and 2011, as many as 250,000 Iraqis died and 1.4 million were displaced. Nearly 5,000 members of the American military were killed, with many thousands more suffering life-altering wounds, both physical and mental.

By most estimates, the United States has spent about $3 trillion on its nation-building efforts. What has this huge investment of blood and treasure achieved? Iraq is still mired in low-grade civil war, with worrisome indications that it is escalating.

By invading Iraq to depose Saddam Hussein and occupying the country for nearly nine years to rebuild it, the United States has replaced one dictator with another strong-arm leader. And that leader, Nouri Maliki, is closely aligned with America's primary foe in the region, Iran.

Then there is Afghanistan. Since early 2002, more than 2,000 Americans have been killed there, with many more seriously wounded. Thousands of Afghan civilians have been killed too. The United States has spent close to $1 trillion trying to turn Afghanistan into a modern, functioning state.

What has the United States achieved? The place is more violent today than it was at the height of the Afghan surge of troops under Gen. Stanley McChrystal in 2009, the government is one of the most corrupt in the world, and the ability of the Afghan security forces is dubious at best.

Would Afghanistan have been worse off today if the United States had left soon after toppling the Taliban and crushing al-Qaida? Remember, the United States had essentially accomplished its core political objective in Afghanistan—the destruction of al-Qaida there—by early 2002.

Yet, even with all this evidence that nation-building operations conducted at gunpoint don't turn out well, some policymakers hold fast to the idea that these kinds of operations are crucial, arguing that we have achieved many of our goals in Iraq and Afghanistan. The purveyors of this notion are deeply attached to a narrative that emerged from analysis of the Vietnam War and took hold during this past decade of American wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This story holds that nation-building wars in foreign lands can be won, as long as the hide-bound conventional armies that fight them then transform themselves, led by "savior generals," into nation-builders. This is the view embraced by popular historian Victor Davis Hanson, who has argued that by the end of 2006, it appeared the war in Iraq was lost, only to be saved by the "maverick savior general, David Petraeus."

Considering the current conditions in Iraq, it is hard to take Hanson seriously. But the narrative is important because it continues to be deployed to convince people that American wars in the troubled spots of the world can be made to work as long as the U.S. military tweaks its tactics under the tutelage of generals like Petraeus.

One of the leading proponents of the efficacy of American nation-building operations, retired Army Lt. Col. John Nagl, has acknowledged that America's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and future wars of this type are likely to be "unsatisfying wars." Nagl's point is that these wars of American foreign intervention to "change entire societies" take a long time, they cost a lot, and the results are often inconclusive, or as he says, "unsatisfying."

Yet the question needs to be asked, why should America fight an "unsatisfying" war in the first place?

The American people have fought satisfying wars in their past: World War II and the American Civil War are two examples. The Civil War satisfied because it ended the greater evil of slavery. World War II defeated the evil, expansionist regimes of Nazi Germany and imperial Japan. War is ugly and brutal in the best of cases, but under Hart's definition of a successful war as one that produces a better state of peace, these were unquestionably successful.

Nagl correctly notes that "messy and unsatisfying" have become "the hallmarks of success in modern counterinsurgency wars." And therein rests the biggest problem with the nation-building narrative: Success is measured by the tactics of these wars and the savior generals who supervise them. Did a surge produce some signs of success? Were fighting forces able to pivot from war-making to nation-building? These things seem to be enough for some policymakers, even when over the long run the truth points to the futility of transforming a foreign nation at the barrel of a GI's gun.

The proof is America's very unsatisfying wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The American people should not accept a narrative suggesting that nation-building wars are worth fighting simply because they have been fought. Instead, they should demand that their senior military officers and elected representatives commit themselves only to wars that stand a chance of creating, as Hart put it, "a better state of peace."

EGYPT

From Page 10

ies, but they were by no means its only ones. During the 1980s, in its efforts to "contain" Iran, the U.S. enlisted Saddam Hussein's Iraq as an ally. Throughout that same decade, responding to a perceived Soviet threat to the Persian Gulf, Washington provided weapons and other support to the Afghan mujahedin.

Yet the U.S. appetite for direct military action in the region was also increasing. First there was the "tanker war" of 1984-88 against Iran, the initiation of hostilities against our erstwhile Iraqi ally in 1991, and armed intervention in Somalia the following year. U.S. airstrikes against various targets throughout the greater Middle East punctuated the Bill Clinton era. Then, after 9/11, came the (ongoing) Afghanistan war, Round 2 of the Iraq war, armed intervention in Libya and small-scale actions in Pakistan, Yemen and elsewhere.

This crowded narrative provides the context for assessing what "engagement" has wrought not only in Egypt but throughout the region. What can we say of the results achieved?

Evidence that U.S. military actions have produced stability or have planted the seeds for a peaceful future is, to put it mildly, hard to come by. Rather than solving problems, the application of American military power has either exacerbated them or proved to be irrelevant. In this regard, the crisis enveloping Egypt merely confirms the results achieved elsewhere. The approach that Washington has pursued in cultivating this key ally simply hasn't worked.

To argue, therefore, that Washington has no choice but to preserve its links to Egypt's army qualifies as the height of absurdity. It's throwing good money after bad, doubling down in hopes of redeeming dubious bets that have repeatedly failed to pay off.

So what's the policy option? Acknowledge the failure. Fold the cards. Try something different. Whatever the problems roiling the Middle East, weapons sales won't fix them. Nor will proxy wars. Nor will the further commitment of U.S. troops.

Egypt today offers Washington the opportunity to demilitarize U.S. policy toward this region. Such a change is long overdue. Terminating further assistance to Egypt's army will mark a necessary first step. Wisdom lies in allowing others to determine their own destiny so that we may pursue our own.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

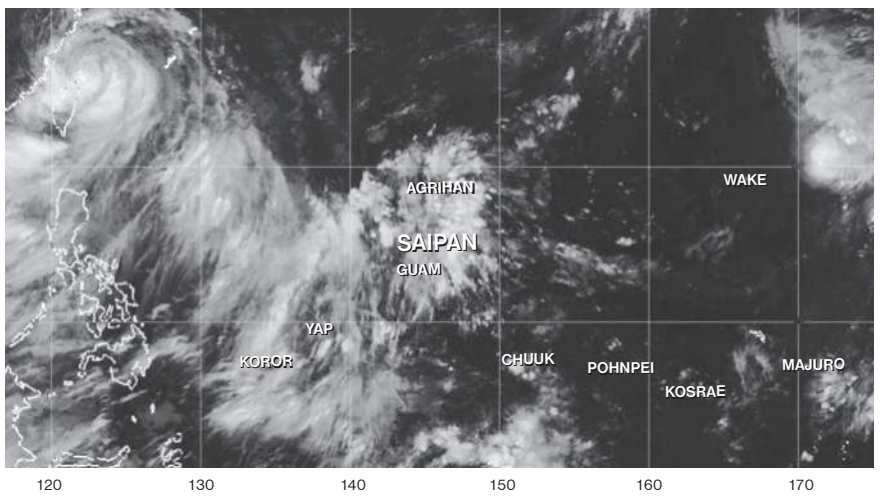
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼80
Palau	Showers	▲84	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼75
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼51
Beijing	Cloudy	▲84	▼65
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼83
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼61
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲60	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼80
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼72
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲96	▼81
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼61
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Rome	Sunny	▲88	▼71
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲95	▼62
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼56
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲89	▼76
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲92	▼80
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲91	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Trami (12W) just northeast of Taiwan at 25N124E is moving west-northwestward at 17 mph with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph. Converging southerly winds in a large area southeast of Trami are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 300 miles of a line from 23N130E to 10N140E. For more information on Typhoon Trami, see advisories issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. Tropical Storm Pewa (01C) east of Wake Island at 19N171E is moving west-northwestward at 14 mph with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph. Numerous showers and a few thunderstorms are between 18N and 25N from 170E to 176E and a few more showers are near 21N179E. For more information on Tropical Storm Pewa, see advisories issued by Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A surface trough across the Mariana Islands is helping to trigger scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 200 miles of a line from 13N143E to 20N150E. A surface trough in southern Micronesia runs southeastward from a weak circulation southeast of Yap at 7N145E to another circulation southwest of Pohnpei at 3N155E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Koror and Yap are between the equator and 10N from 135E to 146E and southeast of Chuuk between the equator and 5N from 152E to 156E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands within 150 miles of a line from 5N172E to 7N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:20 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
8:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
9:39 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
9:56 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:22 AM	6:49 AM
Friday	8:07 AM	7:46 AM
Saturday	8:51 AM	8:42 AM
Sunday	9:35 AM	9:36 AM
Monday	10:20 AM	10:28 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

OZ1077	4:50am	7:10am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL583	5:50am	8:30am	2, 5, 6

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ612	3:40am	7:20am	Daily
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily
OZ1087	10:00pm	2:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL582	8:30pm	1:00am+1	1, 4, 5

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ611	9:10pm	2:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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Business

Tesla Model S aces crash tests

By DANA HULL
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

CONTRA COSTA TIMES/MCT
San Jose Mercury News reporter Dana Hull drives a Tesla Model S sedan past Lake Merritt in Oakland, California, April 11, 2013. Tesla Motors loaned the car to Hull for a few days to test-drive.

Tesla Motors Inc. says its all-electric Model S sedan has received the highest crash test ratings of any car ever tested by federal regulators. Not only that: Tesla says it was nearly impossible to roll the Model S over during the tests, and that a machine used to crush roofs in another test broke because the Model S is so strong.

Nathan Naylor, a spokesman for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, confirmed Tuesday that Tesla received a five-star rating but stressed that the federal agency does not rank autos against each other, leaving it unclear whether the NHTSA agrees with Tesla that the Model S received the highest crash test ratings ever.

Naylor confirmed, however, that the Model S got five-star ratings in every category set by the safety agency.

The top safety ratings are a significant honor for the Palo Alto, Calif.-based company and its CEO, Elon Musk, who takes pride in the fact that there have been no reported Model S or Tesla Roadster occupant fatalities.

"Of all vehicles tested, including every major make and model approved for sale in the United States, the Model S set a new record for the lowest likelihood of injury to occupants," Tesla said in a statement released late Monday. "While the Model S is a sedan, it also exceeded the safety score of all SUVs and minivans. This score takes into account the probability of injury from front, side, rear and rollover accidents."

The NHTSA estimates that 34,080 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2012, an increase of 5.3 percent from 2011.

Theo O'Neill, an analyst with Litchfield Hills Research, said a segment of the population will find the safety ratings a compelling reason to buy the Model S, which has a base price of about $70,000 before a federal subsidy.

"As a father, I find this will make it easier to convince my wife that we should buy one of these beauties," O'Neill said.

India scrambles to halt rupee slide

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indians returning from abroad bring nearly 3,000 flat screen televisions into the country a day, turning airport luggage belts into revolving electronics displays. A stiff new customs duty aims to sink that popular trade as officials scramble to halt a dizzying plunge in the rupee.

The 36-percent TV tax is the latest in a slew of measures the government has announced to steady the currency and is a sign, critics say, of its increasing desperation. New limits were imposed on the amount of money individuals and companies can invest overseas. Higher taxes were slapped on gold imports. Interest rates on rupee deposits were raised. All to no avail.

The rupee has plumbed new lows against the dollar on a near daily basis, showing the pressure of a current account deficit that has swelled from high import costs. A dollar now buys more than 63 rupees, a decline of 8 percent for the rupee so far this August. The Sensex stock index is down more than 10 percent in the past month. Nearly half that fall was in the past few days.

The government is panicked because the slumping rupee threatens to worsen two important barometers of the nation's financial standing—its budget, already in deficit because of subsidized oil imports, and the overseas trade account, also deeply in the red.

"These are really piecemeal efforts," said Anjalika Bardalai, a senior Asia analyst at the London-based consulting firm Eurasia Group. "They haven't engaged in a big-bang reform to deal with structural problems still affecting the economy."

Finance Minister P. Chidambaram defended the government's efforts in parliament on Tuesday. To halt the rupee's decline, he said the government is trying to stem demand for non-essential imports while also encouraging inflows of money.

Pessimists fear India could suffer a funding crisis like the one it experienced in 1990-91 when international investors took fright at its shaky finances. But with the central bank now stocked with $280 billion of foreign currency reserves, most experts think that scenario is unlikely.

Judge approves Kodak plan to exit bankruptcy

NEW YORK (AP)—Kodak doesn't look a whole lot like it did when it filed for bankruptcy protection last year, but its executives and investors are hoping for a picture-perfect future.

Many of its products and services are gone, including the camera-making business that made it famous more than a century ago. Also gone are scores of workers, manufacturing facilities, supply contracts and millions of dollars in investments.

On Tuesday, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Allan Gropper approved the company's plan to emerge from court oversight, paving the way for it to recreate itself as a new, much smaller company focused on commercial and packaging printing.

Kodak said it hopes to emerge from bankruptcy protection as early as Sept. 3.

"They still have people with immense skill and who know how to win," said Mark Zupan, dean of the business school at the University of Rochester, near Kodak's headquarters. "But it's also a team that has gone through hell for the last 10 to 20 years. It has been like constant water torture."

Founded by George Eastman in 1880, Eastman Kodak Co. is credited with popularizing photography at the start of the 20th century and was known all over the world for its Brownie and Instamatic cameras and its yellow-and-red film boxes. It was first brought down by Japanese competition and then an inability to keep pace with the shift from film to digital technology.

"Up until around 2005, Kodak was one of the most recognizable brands in the world, and that's now gone," said Robert Burley, a photography professor at Ryerson University in Toronto. "It's only real brand recognition these days is as a failed company that was unable to make the transition from the 20th century to the 21st century. To some degree, they have become a poster child for a company that could not keep up with technology."

Nation

Man, 20, charged in Ga. school shooting

DECATUR, Ga. (AP)—A man with an assault rifle and other weapons exchanged gunfire with officers Tuesday at an Atlanta-area elementary school before surrendering, a police chief said, with dramatic overhead television footage capturing the young students racing out of the building, being escorted by teachers and police to safety. No one was injured.

Just a week into the new school year, more than 800 students in pre-kindergarten to fifth grade were evacuated from Ronald E. McNair Discovery Learning Academy in Decatur, a few miles east of Atlanta. They sat outside along a fence in a field for a time until school buses came to take them to their waiting parents and other relatives at a nearby Wal-Mart.

When the first bus arrived about three hours after the shooting, cheers erupted in the store parking lot from relieved relatives, several of them sobbing.

The suspect, identified later as 20-year-old Michael Brandon Hill, fired at least a half-dozen shots from the rifle from inside McNair at officers who were swarming the campus outside, the chief said. Officers returned fire when the man was alone and they had a clear shot, DeKalb County Police Chief Cedric L. Alexander said at a news conference. Hill surrendered shortly after and several weapons were found, though it wasn't clear how many, Alexander said. Police had no motive.

Though the school has a system where visitors must be buzzed in by staff, the gunman may have slipped inside behind someone authorized to be there, Alexander said. The suspect, who had no clear ties to the school, never got past the front office, where he held one or two employees captive for a time, the chief said. Hill, who had address listed about three miles from the school, is charged with aggravated assault on a police officer, terroristic threats and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. There was no information on a possible court date.

A woman in the office called WSB-TV to say the gunman asked her to contact the Atlanta station and police. WSB said during the call, shots were heard in the background. Assignment editor Lacey Lecroy said she spoke with the woman who said she was alone with the man and his gun was visible.

"It didn't take long to know that this woman was serious," Lecroy said. "Shots were one of the last things I heard. I was so worried for her."

Afghan massacre victim takes stand, curses gunman

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Washington (AP)—An Afghan farmer shot during a massacre in Kandahar Province last year took the witness stand Tuesday against the U.S. soldier who attacked his village, cursing him before breaking down and pleading with the prosecutor not to ask him any more questions.

Haji Mohammad Naim appeared Tuesday in the courtroom at Joint Base Lewis-McChord south of Seattle, where a sentencing hearing began for Staff Sgt. Robert Bales in the slayings of 16 civilians killed during pre-dawn raids on two villages on March 11, 2012.

The hearing afforded some victims and relatives their first chance to confront Bales face-to-face.

With a thick gray beard, a turban and traditional Afghan dress, Haji Mohammad Naim testified in his native Pashto through an interpreter, speaking loudly and quickly and frequently waving a finger in the air. He pointed to where he was shot in the cheek and neck.

"This bastard stood right in front of me!" he said. "I wanted to ask him, `What did I do? What have I done to you?'... And he shot me!"

Bales pleaded guilty in June to avoid the death penalty. Now the six jurors must decide whether he is sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole or without it.

Naim, who is about 60 years old, said he has suffered from numbness in his hand and a stutter since the shooting. He became emotional, often speaking over the interpreter, as prosecutor Lt. Col. Jay Morse asked what it was like to have someone come into his home uninvited. He eventually stood up and said he'd had enough: "Don't ask me any more questions!"

The prosecutor asked him for one more favor: to sit down and see whether the defense attorneys had any questions for him. He complied, but Bales' lawyers said they didn't need to ask him anything.

Naim's two sons, Sadiqullah, who is about 13, and the older Faizullah, also testified.

Sadiquallah spoke quietly, responding with a simple "yes" when asked if he cried about being shot. Faizullah, who was not at home during the attack, said his father has trouble picking up even simple objects because his hand is so weak.

ACROSS THE NATION

VP Biden's son evaluated at Texas cancer center

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—Beau Biden, the Delaware attorney general and the son of Vice President Joe Biden, is being evaluated at a cancer center in Texas, according to people with knowledge of his condition. Two people familiar with the situation said Biden was being evaluated Tuesday at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, one of the leading cancer centers in the nation. The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak in an official capacity. Biden's wife and other family members, including the vice president, were with him.

Judge to announce Manning's sentence Wednesday

FORT MEADE, Md. (AP)—A military judge said she'll announce on Wednesday the sentence for Army Pfc. Bradley Manning, who gave reams of classified information to WikiLeaks. Army Col. Denise Lind said Tuesday she was still deliberating but she was confident she would have a sentence by Wednesday morning. "At 10 a.m. tomorrow I will announce the sentence," Lind said about 2 1/2 hours into her deliberations. Manning faces up to 90 years in prison for leaking more than 700,000 Iraq and Afghanistan battlefield reports and State Department diplomatic cables in 2010 while working as an intelligence analyst in Iraq. He also leaked video of an U.S. helicopter attack in Baghdad in which at least nine people were killed, including a Reuters news photographer and his driver.

3 teens charged in death of Australian player

DUNCAN, Okla. (AP)—With a motive that's both chilling and simple—to break up the boredom of an Oklahoma summer—three teenagers randomly targeted an Australian collegiate baseball player who was attending school in the U.S. and killed him for fun, prosecutors said Tuesday as they charged two of the boys with murder. Prosecutor Jason Hicks called the boys "thugs" as he described how Christopher Lane, 22, of Melbourne, was shot once in the back and died along a tree-lined road on Duncan's well-to-do north side. He said the three teens, from the grittier part of town, chose Lane at random and that one of the boys "thinks it's all a joke." Hicks charged Chancey Allen Luna, 16, and James Francis Edwards, Jr., 15, of Duncan, with first-degree murder. Under Oklahoma law they will be tried as adults.

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Asia

Floods recede in Manila as thousands are evacuated

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Flooding caused by some of the Philippines' heaviest rains that submerged more than half the capital began receding Tuesday, but authorities evacuated thousands of residents along Manila's overflowing rivers and braced for more chaos in outlying provinces.

AP

Rescuers pull a boat carrying residents as they enforce evacuation at an area flooded due to a swollen river in Marikina city, east of Manila, Philippines Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2013.

At least eight people have died, including four who drowned north of Manila. The dead included a 5-year-old boy whose house was hit by a concrete wall that collapsed, and a 3-year-old boy who fell into a swollen river in Mariveles town in Bataan province. Four people are missing.

Throughout the sprawling, low-lying capital region of 12 million people, offices, banks and schools were closed and most roads were impassable. People stumbled through waist- or neck-deep waters, holding on to ropes strung from flooded houses.

More than 200 evacuation centers were opened in Manila and surrounding provinces, filled with tens of thousands of people, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said. Overall, more than 600,000 people have been affected by the floods.

"I had to wade through a waist-deep flood," said Esteban Gabin, a 45-year-old driver, who was plotting the best route to check on his family in Pampanga province, northwest of Manila. "But I may have to swim to reach my home because we live near the Pampanga River, and the flood there could reach up to neck deep."

The flooding that covered half of the capital receded to 20 percent, concentrated on Marikina and Paranaque cities, said Eduardo del Rosario, head of the national disaster council.

In Marikina, where the river breached its banks, authorities started evacuating some 12,000 people to schools and gymnasiums that were turned into emergency shelters.

As the weather gradually improved in Manila, the concern shifted to provinces outside the capital that were expected to be drenched as the monsoon travels north.

In Pampanga's rice-producing town of Minalin, more than 200 villagers fled after water from a swollen river spilled over a dike and began flooding communities amid pounding rain. Villagers scrambled to lay sandbags on the dike and in front of their houses, said Office of Civil Defense officer Nigel Lontoc.

"The villagers are afraid that the dike may collapse any time," Lontoc said by phone.

About 200 members of the Aeta tribe living near the foot of Mount Pinatubo left their homes for fear of being swept away by a raging river near Botolan township in Zambales province, said Elsa Novo, a leader of an Aeta federation in the province.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Radioactive water leaks at Japanese nuclear plant

TOKYO (AP)—The operator of Japan's tsunami-crippled nuclear power plant said Tuesday that about 300 tons (300,000 liters, 80,000 gallons) of highly radioactive water have leaked from one of the hundreds of storage tanks there—its worst leak yet from such a vessel. Tokyo Electric Power Co. said the contaminated water leaked from a steel storage tank at the wrecked Fukushima Dai-ichi plant. TEPCO hasn't figured out how or where the water leaked, but suspects it did so through a seam on the tank or a valve connected to a gutter around the tank. TEPCO said that because the tank is about 100 meters (330 feet) from the coastline, the leak does not pose an immediate threat to the sea.

5 believed dead after boat sinks in Indian Ocean

SYDNEY (AP)—Five people were believed to have drowned after a boat carrying more than 100 suspected asylum seekers sank in the remote Indian Ocean. The boat sank on Tuesday about 220 kilometers (140 miles) north of Christmas Island, where Australia operates a detention camp for asylum seekers. An Australian navy ship hurried to the scene and found upon arrival the partially submerged boat and passengers struggling in the water. Rescuers plucked 106 people to safety, but five other passengers remained unaccounted for and are believed to have drowned, the Customs and Border Protection agency said in a statement. The search was called off Tuesday night.

Vietnam sentences Thai to death for drug smuggling

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—State media say a court in southern Vietnam has sentenced a Thai woman to death for trafficking 2 kilograms (4.4 pounds) of cocaine into the communist country. The Thanh Nien newspaper says the People's Court in Ho Chi Minh City convicted and sentenced 31-year-old Chaimongkol Suracha at a one-day trial Tuesday. The report said Wednesday that Vietnamese authorities found the cocaine hidden in two photo albums in Chaimongkol's luggage when she arrived at Tan Son Nhat airport on Oct 1, 2012. She told the court that she was duped into trafficking the drug, but judges said she had to be responsible for the crime. In Vietnam, trafficking 1.3 pound of heroin or cocaine is punishable by death.

Red Cross chief visits Koreas to discuss reunions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The president of the International Committee of the Red Cross is visiting North and South Korea to discuss proposed reunions of families separated by the Korean War and other humanitarian issues. Peter Maurer arrived in Pyongyang on Tuesday and plans to visit South Korea to speak to officials there on Friday, the same day that has been proposed for both Koreas to meet for working-level talks on the reunions proposal. North Korea agreed to the reunion talks but has also proposed talks on resuming tours to a North Korean resort. South Korea said the issues should be handled separately, and the North hasn't responded to South Korea's proposed delay on discussing the tourism project.

World

Egypt's Brotherhood as beleaguered as its leader

CAIRO (AP)—The Muslim Brotherhood's top leader looked somber and fatigued after his arrest Tuesday, his demeanor mirroring the Islamist movement's predicament following its stunning fall from power and a deadly government crackdown.

Badie

The Brotherhood's decision to play hardball after the military's ouster of Egypt's Islamist president has backfired, leaving it embroiled in a crisis and looking at unattractive choices: Aligning with hard-line groups in an insurgency that almost certainly will fail or going underground in the hope of resurfacing one day.

Regardless of which path it chooses, the Brotherhood's grim future will impact Islamic groups across the Middle East and beyond. The Egyptian organization is something of a "mother ship" that has inspired their creation and provided a role model of the political Islam they want to prevail.

"It looks like it's over for the Brotherhood," said Sameh Eid, a former member who has maintained contact with the group. "Brotherhood families are grieving over their dead or busy trying to see how they can visit loved ones in detention or others who are injured. The animosity on the streets is exhausting them and allies are abandoning them."

Founded in 1928, the group has spent most of its 85-year existence on the sidelines, outlawed, harshly treated and demonized by successive regimes. The June 2012 election of one of its longtime leaders, Mohammed Morsi, in Egypt's first free presidential vote was the pinnacle of its newfound power. With its own man in the land's highest office and its members dominating the legislature, the Brotherhood looked invincible.

It did not last long, however. The military toppled Morsi in a July 3 coup after barely a year in office, dealing the Brotherhood a devastating blow.

Shortly before his ouster, Morsi's supporters set up two sit-in camps at strategic squares on opposite ends of Cairo. The camps soon became a springboard for daily demonstrations that crippled much of the city. Protesters, some of them armed, congregated outside ministries, security buildings and military installations.

British paper details confrontation with UK spies

LONDON (AP)—A British newspaper released new details of its confrontation with the country's intelligence service on Tuesday, saying it destroyed hard drives containing material leaked by Edward Snowden in order to insulate the former American intelligence worker from potential prosecution and to keep reporting on his leaks.

The Guardian said senior staffers shattered the electronics using angle grinders and drills in mid-July in a bid to avoid legal action or even a police raid that could halt its reporting or provide evidence for U.S. officials seeking to put Snowden behind bars.

"I didn't want to get in that position," editor Alan Rusbridger said in a video interview posted to the Guardian's website. "Once it was obvious that they would be going to law, I would rather destroy the copy than hand it back to them or allow the courts to freeze our reporting."

He said the paper has other copies of the same material located elsewhere.

Rusbridger spoke as disquiet continued to grow over the detention of Guardian journalist Glen Greenwald's partner, David Miranda, who was held for nine hours at London's Heathrow Airport on Sunday as he was ferrying material related to the Snowden story between filmmaker Laura Poitras in Germany and Brazil, where Greenwald is based.

Andean farmers freeze-dry spuds the ancient way

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—For centuries, people in Bolivia's high Andes have eaten freeze-dried potatoes, taking advantage of freezing mountain temperatures and a baking sun to prepare the local staple called "chuno."

Chuno (pronounced `CHOON-yo') means "wrinkled" in Aymara, and its method of preparation has not changed since its invention more than 1,500 years ago by Inca forerunners.

At the end of the harvest, farmers spread potatoes by the sackful on the ground for three days until they are frozen solid. Then they stomp the frozen spuds with bare feet and let the resulting mash dry in the sun until dark in color.

The chuno can be stored for the rest of the year.

"I step on the potatoes with a lot of force to prepare the chuno, which will last me a long time. We will not go hungry," says Ramona Bustos, an Aymara woman working on the shoulder of a mountain near Bolivia's capital, La Paz.

AP

In this July 22, 2013, Aymara Indian Ramona Bustos walks barefoot on potatoes to remove frozen dew and the peels as she works in extremely cold temperatures on La Cumbre mountain on the outskirts of La Paz, Bolivia.

The potato was the first Andean product to conquer the world. But little is known about chuno outside of Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and the north of Argentina and Chile. In the Andes, it is an essential part of the local diet.

A sack of chuno costs just $10, says Rosa Quispe, a vendor hawking it at a street market in La Paz's teeming sister city of El Alto.

"It will last you a full year."

Focus

Ousted China leader's trial caps dramatic downfall

BEIJING (AP)—Only a few people heard it, but when one of China's most prominent politicians slapped his police chief across the face, it would end up reverberating far and wide. The smack unleashed tales of murder and conspiracy at the highest levels of the Communist Party—and eventually, the politician's own undoing.

Bo

A Chinese woman protests outside the Jinan Intermediate People's Court in Jinan, eastern China's Shandong province Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2013. Former Chinese politician Bo Xilai will stand trial at the court on Thursday on charges of corruption and abuse of power. Individual protestors have turned up at the court hoping to take advantage of media attention around Bo's trial to air their own grievances about China's legal system. The Chinese characters on her shirt reads "20 years, Gangsters."

AP

A day earlier, the chief had confronted Bo Xilai, the party boss of the megacity of Chongqing, with some unwelcome information: He had evidence Bo's wife had killed a British businessman in China. Bo's stinging rebuke sent the top cop fleeing into the arms of American officials, creating the Communist Party's most embarrassing scandal in decades.

Now the final chapter in the saga is about to unfold: a closely orchestrated trial, opening Thursday, in which the 64-year-old Bo is virtually assured of being convicted of corruption and abuse of power.

Bo's trial will seal the political demise of a charismatic figure who cultivated a following by mobilizing the masses and sending his critics to labor camps. His naked ambition might have led to his fall.

He had been a member of China's 25-member Politburo, and had been considered a contender for one of the seven seats on the party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee. Today, he is in many senses a nonentity; his own family has not seen him in 18 months.

"It's dealing with a ghost, really. The guy has been absolutely annihilated," said Kerry Brown, a former British diplomat in Beijing and China expert at the University of Sydney.

Bo's ouster laid bare how he and other top officials reigned unfettered by the law in Chongqing, a sprawling city of 30 million people where skyscrapers have risen at the confluence of two rivers. The scandal also ruptured the Communist Party's facade of unity, exposing divisions at the highest echelons.

Bo rode to nationwide fame by leading an anti-mafia crusade and mass sing-alongs of communist anthems in Chongqing, and by implementing populist policies that made him beloved with his region's poor. But his publicity-seeking ways angered leaders who were wary of any revival of the personality cult, chaos and bloodshed of the Mao Zedong era.

The rising political star precipitated his downfall in January of 2012 by censuring his top aide, police chief Wang Lijun, and then stripping him of his powerful post.

Spurned by his influential patron and fearing for his life, Wang slipped out of the city by car a week later and fled to the U.S. consulate in neighboring Chengdu to seek asylum. He brought explosive allegations: murder by a city boss's wife, a cover-up and other high-level machinations.

"It felt like something out of a spy thriller," U.S. Ambassador Gary Locke later said in an interview with Newsweek.

The exact details of what Wang revealed remain unclear but an incomplete narrative rolled out by Chinese authorities in the months since sheds some light.

The Bo family was once—outwardly—a picture of success: a telegenic politician and his devoted wife, Gu Kailai, a corporate lawyer who gave up her job to help her husband's ascent and raise their son. They nurtured a network of strong political, military and business connections aided by their pedigrees as the children of veteran revolutionaries.

But in recent years, the official story goes, Gu descended into anxiety and paranoia. She became troubled by a dispute with a British associate of the family, Neil Heywood, who allegedly had demanded a multi-million-dollar commission on a property venture and threatened her son's life.

In November 2011, Gu lured Heywood to a secluded hilltop retreat in Chongqing where she got him drunk and then, with an aide's help, poured cyanide into his mouth. Then she turned to Wang, who sent police officers to remove evidence, including hotel surveillance videos.

"It's all gone up in smoke, flown on a crane to paradise," the police chief told Gu after Heywood was declared dead by excessive drinking and his body was cremated.

Unknown to Gu, Wang had recorded a phone conversation in which she'd confessed to the crime. He also had secretly saved samples from Heywood's heart and other evidence.

Left out of the official account was a surprising twist that was exposed in court testimony: The police chief had helped Gu plot the murder from the start, but backed away from its execution. Also unclear is why Wang brought the murder allegations to his boss, though reports suggested that Wang hoped Bo would shield him from an unrelated graft investigation.

His plan backfired, forcing him instead to flee to the U.S. consulate, prompting Chinese security vehicles to surround the building. Photos of the scene circulating on microblogs were the first public hints of trouble brewing. When Wang realized that asylum was not an option, he negotiated with Chinese officials for safe passage to Beijing.

The murder allegations were not yet publicly known, but Wang's actions were considered a severe breach of party protocol.

Three weeks later, at Beijing's annual national legislative sessions, Bo admitted lapses in judgment but defended himself and his anti-mafia campaign, which had come under fire for abuses of the legal process.

"I feel like I've failed in my supervision of my staff," Bo said, referring to Wang, as he leaned back in a large armchair. "This incident is something we need to seriously reflect on and sum up."

Though he looked tired, his eyes puffy, Bo exuded his signature self-confidence and charm. He smiled often as he held court in a room crowded with journalists asking pointed questions.

Raising his palm as if taking an oath, Bo deflected questions about whether he was jockeying for a top spot in China's political transfer of power, then under way. He blasted reports that suggested his then-24-year-old son led a playboy lifestyle, accusing his critics of "pouring filth" on his family.

Bo insisted his true concern was China's rich-poor gap. "If only a few people are rich, then we are capitalists. We have failed."

Those were his last remarks in public.

Several days later, on March 14, 2012, then-outgoing Premier Wen Jiabao criticized Bo—without naming him—in a rare public rebuke of a party leader of that stature. Wen said Chongqing leaders "must seriously reflect on the Wang Lijun incident and learn lessons from it." Wen also took a swipe at Bo's Maoist reputation, saying China must guard against regressing to one of its most violent periods.

The next day, Bo was dismissed as Chongqing party boss.

At a labor camp in Chongqing, inmates cheered at the announcement on the evening news. "We all thought: He's finally getting what he deserves," said Fang Hong, a forestry official who had been sent to the camp for a year for posting a scatological ditty online that mocked Bo. He spent that year making Christmas lights for export to Germany.

Fang's was no isolated case of extralegal abuse—dozens of people were locked up for various minor transgressions, said Fang, whose case was overturned by a court recently.

"It was a time of red terror," he said in a recent interview. "The labor camps were overflowing with people."

The murder allegations against Bo's wife emerged after his dismissal. She has been convicted of murder and given a suspended death sentence that may be reduced to life in prison.

Bo was stripped of further posts, including on the powerful Politburo. He now faces charges of interfering with the murder investigation, as well as bribery and embezzlement, in a trial in the city of Jinan.

Bo Guagua, the couple's son, said in a statement released to The New York Times that he has been denied contact with both parents for the past 18 months.

Bo Xilai's trial is expected to be a short affair with a predetermined outcome: guilt. Analysts note that in China's recent history of political purges, the fates of senior officials accused of corruption tend to be decided by backroom negotiations that have little to do with justice.

Environment

Ecuador pulls plug on cash-for-conservation program in the Amazon

By JIM WYSS
THE MIAMI HERALD

AP
Environmental activists demonstrate in front of the government palace in Quito, Ecuador, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2013. The protest was staged as Ecuador's President Rafael Correa gives a televised speech related to his failed campaign to persuade rich countries to pay Ecuador more than $3 billion not to drill for oil in the pristine Yasuni rainforest preserve at the Amazonian region.

BOGOTA, Colombia—Ecuador will open a pristine swath of the Amazon to oil drilling after the international community failed to back an ambitious conservation plan to leave the crude untouched, the government said Thursday.

In a nationally televised speech, President Rafael Correa said he was dissolving the Yasuni-ITT Initiative, in which the country planned to leave more than 840 million barrels of oil untouched if other nations would pay $3.6 billion, or half the market price of the crude.

"We weren't asking for charity," Correa said, "we were asking for co-responsibility in the fight against climate change."

The ITT oil block—short for Ishpingo, Tambococha, Tiputini—holds about 20 percent of the nation's reserves and lies in a remote corner of Yasuni National Park, one of the most biodiversity-rich spots on the planet.

The 2.4 million-acre U.N. biosphere reserve holds about one-third of all of the Amazon's amphibian species. In any given two-and-a-half acre plot of the Yasuni there are more species of trees than in the United States and Canada combined.

The area is also home to the Tagaeri-Taromenane, one of the hemisphere's last tribes living in voluntary isolation.

Correa said he was determined to protect the area and said the state-run oil company, Petroamazonas, would use cutting-edge technology to minimize the environmental impact. He also said oil exploration would be limited to an area of less than 1 percent of the national park.

The government and environmental groups had hoped that the innovative model—effectively crowd-sourcing conservation—could be replicated in other poor nations.

But since its launch in 2007, only about $336 million has been raised, mostly from European and developing nations. The United States, China and Japan—the world's three largest gas guzzlers—did not contribute to the project.

Correa said the initiative was "before its time" and had suffered because it was launched in the midst of the global environmental crisis. But he also blasted developed nations for not supporting the project.

"The primary factor for its failure," he said, "is that the world is a great hypocrisy."

Despite its economic failure, the Yasuni-ITT Initiative has broad backing in Ecuador. Polls show that more than 80 percent of the population backs the initiative.

Rival political parties are asking for a national referendum to settle the debate and some sectors have suggested they will organize protests to defend the area.

Correa, a U.S.-trained economist who won re-election earlier this year, has enjoyed broad support thanks to his focus on new roads, schools and hospitals. On Thursday, he said Ecuador needs its oil resources to keep pulling people out of poverty. He also said that most of the income from the ITT oil would not be available until after he leaves the presidency in 2017.

"We're not doing this for the next elections," he said. "We're doing this for the next generations."

Study warns of future costs of coastal flooding

By TONY BARBOZA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Coastal flooding could cost big cities more than $60 billion a year by mid-century, with losses jumping even more dramatically if nothing is done to counter rising sea levels and subsiding land, a new study has found.

A team of researchers analyzed data on flood exposure in 136 of the world's largest coastal cities to project steep increases in economic losses, from an estimated $6 billion a year in 2005 to $52 billion by 2050 based on changes in population, economic growth and urbanization.

Even if those cities do as expected and invest in flood defenses to keep their level of exposure at what it is now, they can expect between $60 billion and $63 billion a year in losses by 2050 because of land subsidence and sea level rise, according to the study published Sunday in the journal Nature Climate Change.

If cities do not pay for expensive upgrades, their annual losses could jump to more than $1 trillion, a figure "so huge it only shows that doing nothing is not a realistic option," said Stephane Hallegatte, a senior economist for the World Bank and lead author of the report.

"The bad side of it is that the risk is increasing, but the bright side is that there is a window of opportunity to drive urban development toward safe places," Hallegatte said.

Researchers also ranked cities worldwide based on flood losses and found that the economic damage is not evenly distributed. In 2005, 31 percent of flood losses came from just three U.S. cities—Miami, New York, New Orleans—according to the study, "because of their high wealth and low protection level."

In the future, flood risk is expected to shift to cities that are big, fast-growing, poor, exposed to tropical storms and prone to land subsidence, the study says. To avoid staggering increases in flood damage, cities across the globe will have to adapt by raising dikes and other flood protections at a rate that outpaces rising sea levels, subsidence and socio-economic growth.

MOST VULNERABLE

Most vulnerable cities in 2005 (By average annual flood losses)
1. Guangzhou (China)
2. Miami
3. New York-Newark
4. New Orleans
5. Mumbai (India)
6. Nagoya (Japan)
7. Tampa-St. Petersburg
8. Boston
9. Shenzhen (China)
10. Osaka-Kobe (Japan)

Most vulnerable cities in 2050 (By average annual flood losses)
1. Guangzhou (China)
2. Mumbai (India)
3. Kolkata (India)
4. Guayaquil (Ecuador)
5. Shenzhen (China)
6. Miami
7. Tianjin (China)
8. New York-Newark
9. Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)
10. New Orleans

Source: Nature Climate Change

New species of shark found off South Carolina coast

By SAMMY FRETWELL
THE STATE (COLUMBIA, S.C.)

COLUMBIA, S.C.—Scientists have discovered a new species of shark in the ocean off South Carolina and have named it for the region where it was found.

The "Carolina hammerhead," thought to reach 11 feet long and weigh about 400 pounds, has been identified cruising the waters at Bull's Bay north of Charleston, St. Helena Sound near Beaufort and in the Charleston harbor.

But biologists suspect these hammerheads occur worldwide, since evidence of them has been found in the past from Brazil to the Indian Ocean. The number of Carolina hammerheads is thought to be small.

"It is a distinct species," said William "Trey" Driggers, a marine scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's fisheries division.

Driggers, a 45-year-old Sumter, S.C., native and Clemson University graduate, was among a team of scientists with NOAA, the University of South Carolina, the University of New Orleans and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources who made the discovery after more than a decade of research.

Much of the work was done in the laboratory of Univeristy of South Carolina professor Joseph Quattro, he said. Veterinarians in Columbia also collaborated on the discovery.

Driggers said it's almost impossible to tell the difference between a Carolina hammerhead and the well-known scalloped hammerhead—except for one major distinction: The newly identified species has fewer vertebrae than its shark cousins.

Carolina hammerheads have 83 to 91 vertebrae, while scalloped hammerheads have 92 to 99 vertebrae.

While the distinction between scalloped and Carolina hammerheads is subtle, NOAA officials say it's significant to conservation of the species. Scalloped hammerhead numbers are dwindling in some areas, so Carolina hammerhead numbers would be even fewer, they said.

Evidence of a hammerhead with fewer vertebrae dates to a single reference in a 1967 research paper, but only in the past decade have scientists obtained more detailed information. Recently, they concluded that the Carolina hammerhead is separate from the scalloped hammerhead.

Some 56 sharks used to identify the Carolina hammerhead were all collected off the South Carolina coast.

Carolina and scalloped hammerheads are the second largest sharks found in Palmetto State waters, behind the great hammerhead. The animals are distinguished by their wide, anvil-like heads.

Life & Style

Best-selling author Elmore Leonard dies at 87

DETROIT (AP)—He was the master of his genre, the Dickens of Detroit, the Chaucer of Crime.

Pretty much every novel Elmore Leonard wrote from the mid-1980s on was a best-seller, and every fan of crime stories knew his name. George Clooney was an admirer. So were Quentin Tarantino, Saul Bellow and Stephen King and millions of ordinary readers.

Leonard, who died Tuesday at age 87, helped achieve for crime writing what King did for horror and Ray Bradbury for science fiction. He made it hip, and he made it respectable.

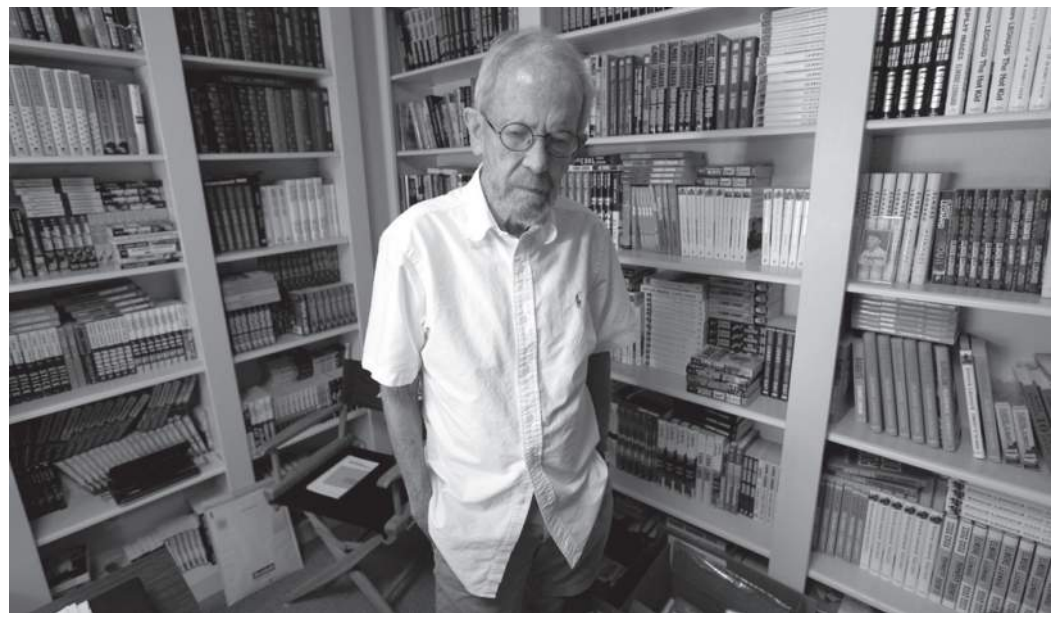
When the public flocked to watch John Travolta in the movie version of "Get Shorty" in 1995, its author became the darling of Hollywood's hottest young directors. Book critics and literary stars, prone to dismissing crime novels as light entertainment, competed for adjectives to praise him. Last fall, he became the first crime writer to receive an honorary National Book Award, a prize given in the past to Philip Roth, Norman Mailer and Arthur Miller.

Few writers so memorably traveled the low road. His more than 40 novels were peopled by pathetic schemers, clever conmen and casual killers. Each was characterized by moral ambivalence about crime, black humor and wickedly acute depictions of human nature: the greedy dreams of Armand Degas in "Killshot," the wisecracking cool of Chili Palmer in "Get Shorty," Jack Belmont's lust for notoriety in "The Hot Kid."

Leonard's novels and short stories were turned into dozens of feature films, TV movies and series, including the current FX show "Justified," which stars Timothy Olyphant as one of Leonard's signature characters, the cool-under-pressure U.S. marshal Raylan Givens.

Critics loved Leonard's flawlessly unadorned, colloquial style, as well as how real his characters sounded when they spoke.

"People always say, `Where do you get (your characters') words?' And I say, `Can't you remember people talking or think up people talking in your head?' That's all it is. I don't know why that seems such a wonder to people," he told The Associated Press last year.



AP

In this Sept. 17, 2012 file photo, author Elmore Leonard, 86, stands in his Bloomfield Township, Mich., home.

Leonard spent much of his childhood in Detroit and set many of his novels in the city. Others were set in Miami near his North Palm Beach, Fla., vacation home.

He died at his home in the Detroit suburb of Bloomfield Township, where he did much of his writing, from complications of a stroke he suffered a few weeks ago, according to his researcher, Gregg Sutter.

Crime novelist James Lee Burke said Leonard was a "gentleman of the old school" whose stylistic techniques and "experimentation with point of view and narrative voice had an enormous influence on hundreds of publishing writers."

Leonard's work contained moral and political themes without being didactic, Burke said. "And he was able to write social satire disguised as a crime novel, or he could write a crime novel disguised as social satire."

Leonard didn't have a best-seller until he was 60, and few critics took him seriously before the 1990s. Now the Library of America, which publishes hardcover editions of classic American writing, is planning a three-volume set of his work.

He had some minor successes in the 1950s and `60s writing Western stories and novels, a couple of which were made into movies. But when interest in the Western dried up, he turned to writing scripts for educational and industrial films while trying his hand at another genre: crime novels.

The first, "The Big Bounce," was rejected many times before it was published as a paperback in 1969. Hollywood came calling again, paying $50,000 for the rights and turning it into a movie starring Ryan O'Neal that even Leonard called "terrible."

He followed up with several more fast-paced crime novels, including "Swag" (1976). Leonard was already following the advice he would later give to young writers: "Try to leave out the parts that people skip."

In 1978, he was commissioned to write an article about the Detroit Police Department and shadowed police officers for nearly three months. Starting with "City Primeval" in 1980, his crime novels gained a new authenticity, with quirky but believable characters and crisp, slangy dialogue. But sales remained light.

Donald I. Fine, an editor at Arbor House, thought they deserved better and promised to put the muscle of his publicity department behind them. He delivered: In 1985, "Glitz," a stylish novel of vengeance set in Atlantic City, became Leonard's first best-seller.

Hollywood rediscovered him, churning out a succession of bad movies, including "52 Pick-up" starring Roy Scheider.

Lutz of 'Twilight' unveils fashion line

LAS VEGAS (AP)—What's a hulking vampire to do without moody mortals in distress and with no more computer-enhanced battles to wage in the forest?

For 28-year-old "Twilight" actor Kellan Lutz—better known as Emmett Cullen, the heartthrob brother of leading man Edward—it's still about looking as good as superhumanly possible.

Lutz unveiled his Pre-Spring 2014 collection with Abbot + Main this week in Las Vegas during MAGIC, one of the fashion world's most influential trade shows.

"It's great to find something outside of acting," he said in an interview Monday at a Las Vegas Strip hotel suite, resting a chiseled, stubbly chin on a sofa pillow.

Born in North Dakota and raised in Arizona and the Midwest—places he described as trendiness-challenged—he started modeling at 14 and developed an eye for style hanging out with fashion and photography greats.

Soon enough, he stopped borrowing clothes from some of his six brothers. They were borrowing from him.

His brand—which debuted in 2011 and is named after an intersection in the beachy-cool Venice Beach, Calif. neighborhood where Lutz once lived—mainly consists of soft, slim-fitting T-shirts and not-trying-too-hard hoodies.

Initially just for men, two-thirds of the collection is now for women. There's a peach-colored, long-sleeved sweater of translucent hacci fabric; a draping tank top in matte gray. Meant for layering, prints and logos are nowhere to be found.

Bloomingdale's and Nordstrom carry the line. Pants retail for $91, while hoodies go for $98.

Lutz works with business partners mainly over Skype as he travels around the world filming. He's starring as the oft-shirtless Hercules in the upcoming "Hercules 3D." After MAGIC, he'll be headed to Bulgaria to shoot "The Expendables 3," an action thriller that's set to include Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger and things blowing up.

AP

Actor-designer Kellan Lutz poses for a portrait to promote his clothing line Abbot + Main's pre-spring 2014 collection at the Mandalay Bay Hotel on Monday, Aug. 19, 2013 in Las Vegas.

Stephenie Meyer, author of the books that led to the movie series that grossed $1.4 billion in U.S. box office receipts, told "Variety" last week that she's done with the fantastical world of glittery-skinned, bloodthirsty knockouts.

"I get further away every day," Meyer's quoted as saying. "I am so over it. For me, it's not a happy place to be."

But the small supporting role that carved him a place in the acting world—and in many a teen girl's heart—looms large for Lutz.

"I'm so thankful for everything that movie's done for me," he said. "'Twilight' gave me a name."

Aretha says she's 85 percent healed

NEW YORK (AP)—Aretha Franklin won't say what caused her latest health problems, but says she's had a "miraculous" recovery and is looking forward to performing soon.

"My treatments are going very well. My last CAT scan, my doctor at the CAT scan and everyone who sees this says that this is miraculous, absolutely miraculous," Franklin said in a phone interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"I was talking to Smokey Robinson, my oldest best friend Smokey, talking about the fact that some doctors are not very well acquainted with faith healing. And Smokey said, 'Well, they just don't know who your healer is.'"

The 71-year-old Queen of Soul has canceled several concerts and public appearances over the last few months due to unspecified health concerns. On Monday, she said she was unable to personally accept an award honoring her work on civil rights from Major League Baseball on Saturday in Chicago.

When asked directly what her health concern was, Franklin declined to go into specifics: "I'm not one to go into my personal health things."

But she said it was very common to women and "I just had to deal with it." She said it was partly related to the health concern she had about three years ago that led her to cancel shows at that time.

Franklin acknowledged that she had worries about her health.

"Anytime you have cancellations you should be concerned. But all prayer is good, and keep me in your prayers until I am 100 percent, not 85, and back onstage," she said.

Franklin said she's been spending her time resting, eating right and taking better care of herself, which has led to a decline in her blood pressure.

She said she's looking forward to performing at Radio City Music Hall in New York City in February but isn't rushing back to the stage.

"The most important thing is my comfort and going at my pace. Nothing is more important than my health," she said.

Franklin is also planning another album.

"I can't wait for that," she said. "They're working on the tracks now."

But she seemed most disappointed that she won't be able to go to next week's U.S. Open tennis championships in New York City, where she planned to make a bit of a fashion statement.

"I had really got this hot, hot, hot three-piece Escada short set to wear ... with some fine platforms but doggone it, I'm just not up to traveling quite as far as New York," she said. "It will have to wait. ... (though) I could very well still get there this year."

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MORTAL INSTRUMENTS [CC,DV] (PG-13) (400 PM) 700 PM
JOBS (PG-13) (430 PM)
KICK-ASS 2 [CC,DV] (R) (415 PM) 715 PM
PARANOIA [CC,DV] (PG) (420 PM) 720 PM
ELYSIUM [CC,DV] (R) (435 PM) 730 PM
PLANES [CC] (PG) (445 PM)
PLANES 3D [CC] (PG) 710 PM
PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS [CC,DV] (PG) 725 PM
PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS 3D [CC,DV] (PG) (425 PM)
WE'RE THE MILLERS [CC,DV] (R) 735 PM

Times For 08/22 © 2013www.REGmovies.com

TV mogul Simon Cowell says he'll be a dad

AP

British producer Simon Cowell arrives for the UK Premiere of 'One Direction: This Is Us 3D' at a central London cinema, Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2013.

LONDON (AP)—British TV mogul Simon Cowell says he's looking forward to being a father, his first public confirmation that he will be having a child with married New York socialite Lauren Silverman.

Cowell, who had previously dodged questions about the affair, told the BBC that "things are changing in my life right now, for the better," adding: "I'm proud to be a dad."

The 53-year-old talent show curmudgeon said Silverman is "a very special girl" and that while he hadn't thought of fatherhood before, "now I know I feel good about it."

Cowell was speaking at the world premiere of the film "One Direction: This Is Us" in London on Tuesday.

Fans mass for One Direction movie premiere

AP

Louis Tomlinson, Zayn Malik, Niall Horan, Harry Styles and Liam Payne arrive at the UK Premiere of 'One Direction: This Is Us 3D' - VIP Arrivals, on Tuesday August 20, 2013, in London.

LONDON (AP)—A crowd of screaming fans has greeted boy band One Direction as it gathered in London's Leicester Square, where its first feature film is getting its world premiere.

Some slept there overnight to stake out a spot near the red carpet on Tuesday evening.

One Direction: This Is Us," a 3-D documentary by "Super Size Me" director Morgan Spurlock, is a backstage look at the band, which was formed on Simon Cowell's TV talent show "The X Factor" in 2010.

The five-piece group has gone on to top charts around the world and has amassed a die-hard army of fans, known as Directioners.

"This is unreal," said band member Harry Styles.

"One Direction: This Is Us" opens in Britain Aug. 29 and in the United States Aug. 30.

Katy Perry to close iTunes Festival in London

AP

This July 28, 2013 file photo shows singer Katy Perry at the world premiere of "The Smurfs 2" in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—This year's iTunes Festival is ending with a roar, to be delivered by Katy Perry.

The pop superstar, whose new single "Roar" is climbing the charts, will be the final act of the month-long London festival. It kicks off Sept. 1 with another diva, Lady Gaga, and will feature Robin Thicke, Elton John, Justin Timberlake, John Legend, Kendrick Lamar and the Kings of Leon, among others.

Perry's "Roar" is her best-selling single on iTunes with more 544,000 copies sold domestically alone, according to Apple.

Perry said she's pumped to be performing and noted that Icona Pop, who have the hit "I Love It," will be her opening act. Rapper Iggy Azalea will also appear.

The annual festival will be streamed on iTunes festival app and available for download.

'General Hospital' actors marry, expecting a baby

NEW YORK (AP)—Life is imitating art for Kirsten Storms of ABC's "General Hospital."

The actress' character on the daytime drama is in labor this week with her daughter.

In real life, 29-year-old Storms is also pregnant with her first child, due in January, and says it's a baby girl.

Dad is 33-year-old Brandon Barash, who played Johnny Zacchara on the soap but left the show in April.

Storms and Barash also say they secretly got married in June.

The couple thinks they conceived the baby on a trip to Amsterdam, while staying in co-star Tony Geary's guest room. Geary plays longtime character Luke Spencer on the show.

People magazine first reported the news.

"General Hospital" is now in its 50th year on the air.

Conn. clerk injured in David Hasselhoff sign theft

SHELTON, Connecticut (AP)—Connecticut police say a convenience store clerk has been critically injured trying to stop the theft of two signs featuring images of actor David Hasselhoff.

Authorities say the 36-year-old clerk at a Cumberland Farms in Shelton saw a man put the signs into an SUV shortly after 1 a.m. Tuesday. Police say the worker was struck and dragged by the SUV and landed on his head.

Police say the clerk is hospitalized in critical condition, and authorities are looking for the suspects. The employee's name hasn't been released.

Hasselhoff starred in the TV shows "Baywatch" and "Knight Rider." The signs featuring him advertise iced coffee. Cumberland Farms officials say more than 500 of them have been stolen from stores in several states in recent months.

Narcotics Anonymous meeting confession fires up readers

Dear Abby

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing about the letter you printed from "Somewhere in the South" (May 26) who heard someone confess to a crime he had committed at age 12 during one of his Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings. The person asked if he should go to the police. You advised him to talk about it to the "group leader."

Abby, in a 12-step program, there is no formal leader who has a responsibility to report anything to the authorities. There are usually discussion groups led by someone chosen for the night.

I am not condoning what the person did at that young age. It was a horrible act. But 12-step programs are based on ANONYMITY. Reporting what is heard at meetings is completely against what 12-step meetings are all about. It was unfair of you to place responsibility on someone who is there for his OWN addiction to tell on another group member.

ANONYMOUS IN THE USA

DEAR ANONYMOUS: I received a ton of criticism for my response to that letter. Readers like you wrote to point out that I was misinformed about how these programs work; others berated me for not insisting the writer notify the police immediately.

I was—and still am—of two minds on the question. While it would be satisfying to see "justice done," I could not bring myself to recommend going against the principle upon which these 12-step programs that have helped thousands of people is based. Another principle of these programs is that people who have hurt others must make amends for what they have done. However, this is the responsibility of the person who committed the crime—NOT someone who overheard mention of it at a meeting. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I have been a member of NA for 26-plus years (drug- and alcohol-free for that entire time). I also work in the field of mental health, where I have certain reporting duties as part of my professional code of ethics. I learned long ago how to separate my professional responsibilities from my membership in NA. If I obtain information about abuse or neglect in the conduct of my profession, THEN I have a duty to act. Should I overhear something at a meeting, in the mall or some other social setting, I have no specific duty to report.

CLEAN, FREE AND LIVING LIFE

DEAR ABBY: As a 30-year member, I can say with certainty that some meeting attendees are grandiose and others are mentally ill. I have not infrequently heard disclosures that I later determined to be not true. The advice for members offered by our NA traditions is, "Take what you can use (in one's own recovery) and leave the rest of what one hears at a meeting."

CHARLES IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY: I disagree with your answer to that letter! Yes, this needs to be reported. If the victim died in that incident, it is a cold case and the boy's parents—if they are still alive—would have never had closure. There may be siblings who would want to know what happened to their brother.

I am not a believer that if you confess to murder in NA, AA or with a priest in a confessional that they are bound not to tell. That is HOGWASH! For some crimes I would say OK, but not something this serious.

JIM R., LANCASTER, CALIF.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

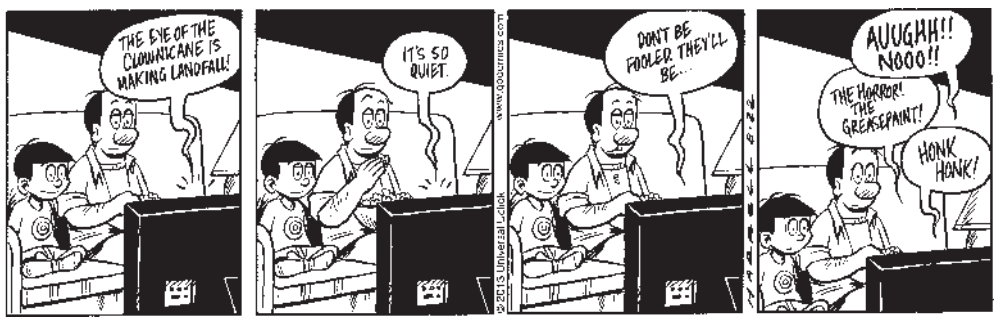
IT'S A DARK DAY FOR THE GET RID OF SLIMY GIRLS CLUB.
OUR GREAT PLAN BACKFIRED AND I'M THE ONE WHO GOT SOAKED! OH, THE SHAME! THE IGNOMINY!
..SIGHHHH...
IF YOU RESIGN, CAN I BE DICTATOR-FOR-LIFE?
I DIDN'T SAY I WAS RESIGNING!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

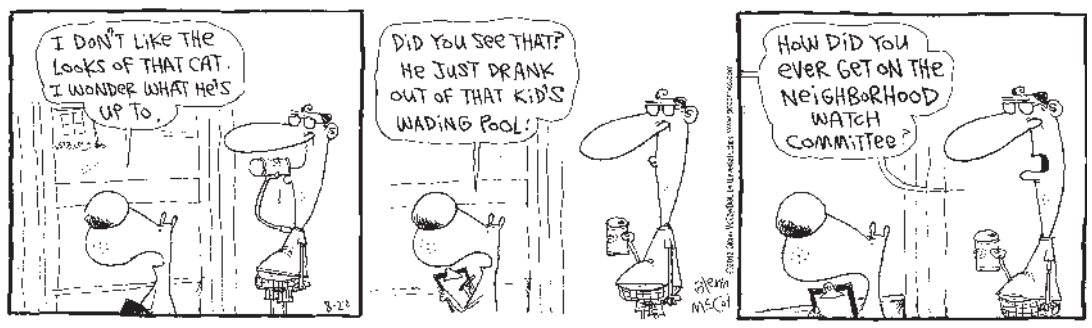
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THE EYE OF THE CLOWNICANE IS MAKING LANDFALL!
IT'S SO QUIET.
DON'T BE FOOLED THEY'LL BE...
AUUGHH!! NOOO!!
THE HORROR! THE GREASEPAINT!
HONK HONK!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THAT CAT. I WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO.
DID YOU SEE THAT? HE JUST DRANK OUT OF THAT KID'S WADING POOL!
HOW DID YOU EVER GET ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COMMITTEE?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Old Glory, e.g.
5 Gear tooth
8 Note from the brass
12 Grown-up nits
13 Coloration
14 On the rocks
15 Mosque VIP
16 Bobby of hockey lore
17 Zilch
18 Toxic substance
20 Complain
22 1961 Jimmy Dean classic
26 Barfly's perch
29 Conclude
30 Chinese chairman
31 Stopper
32 Thickness
33 Narc's measure
34 Exist
35 Cattle call?
36 36-Down's first ingredient
37 Fairy tale baddie
40 Guinness or Baldwin
41 Go to
45 Logical
47 Apt. coolers
49 — vera
50 Reed instrument
51 The girl
52 Church area
53 Nasty stinger
54 "— the season ..."
55 Break suddenly

DOWN

1 Buy, renovate and resell quickly
2 Long ride?
3 Superberry?
4 Large African antelope
5 Cheech's partner
6 "— Town"
7 European country that borders nine others
8 Singer Nicki
9 Part of EEC
10 Chaps
11 Praise in rhyme
19 Lubricate
21 Peculiar
23 Underneath
24 Head light?
25 Midday
26 Wound cover
27 Amos or Spelling
28 Wild marjorams
32 Computer program?
33 Flowy garments (Var.)
35 West of Hollywood
36 Deli order, for short
38 Censor, in a way
39 Refuges
42 Verve
43 Smoked salmon
44 Thought-provoking
45 Boar's mate
46 Lawyers' org.
48 22nd Greek letter

Solution time: 25 mins.

		T	A	B			T	A	R			
	D	I	V	A		M	I	M	E	O		
I	A	M	O	Z		A	L	I	C	N	S	
T	H	E	W	O	R	L	D	S	F	A	I	R
A	L	S		O	A	T	E	S		G	E	E
			S	K	I	S			P	E	G	S
		J	I	H	A	D		S	U	C	R	E
R	U	N	E			P	I	N	S			
A	D	D		S	K	A	T	E		H	I	P
F	A	I	R	A	N	D	S	Q	U	A	R	E
	S	E	A	B	E	D		U	N	L	I	T
		S	I	L	Y			A	D	F	S	
			N	E	T			L	O	Y		

Yesterday's answer 8-22

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21			■	■
■	■	■	22			23					24	25
26	27	28			■	29			■	30		
31				■	32			■	33			
34			■	35			■	36				
37			38				39			■	■	■
■	■	40				■	41			42	43	44
45	46			■	47	48		■	49			
50					51				52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kristen Wiig, 40; Ty Burrell, 46; Tori Amos, 50; Valerie Harper, 74.

Happy Birthday: Call in favors and interact with people from your past who have something to offer you now. Form partnerships and discuss plans that will allow you greater maneuverability mentally, physically, financially and professionally. Who you associate with will make a difference to how much you can achieve. Learn from past experience and prosper. Make relationships a priority. Your numbers are 2, 9, 16, 27, 30, 36, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A critical look at your current situation and a to-do list will help you move in a direction that results in more self-confidence and contentment. A change in career or where you live will lead to unexpected perks. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Work alongside your peers and you will gain popularity and recognition. Broaden your outlook and take on a new challenge to show how diverse you can be. Travel to a destination that will give you insight into a situation you face. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Confusion, disillusionment and deception are apparent. Avoid being taken for granted or allowing anyone to use emotional blackmail to get you to give in to demands. Focus on your home, family and the people you love. Charity begins at home. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Do what feels right and follow the path that looks most promising. What you learn from interacting with others will help you make the best decision. Don't make an impulsive move because someone you love puts pressure on you. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Change is within reach, but it's up to you to make a decision and act on what's being offered. Love is in the stars and will contribute to the choice you make. Don't hold back when action is required. Invest in your future. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be torn between what you should do and what you want to do. Look at the big picture and decide what will bring you the greatest happiness. Follow your heart, take control and stand your ground. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take care of business first and give it your all. The more innovative you are, the better. Look for ways to improve your efficiency and show off your skills. Positive personal changes will result in compliments. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Participate in events or activities that are challenging as well as informative and help you test your skills and meet interesting new people. Interacting will allow you to try out new options that could turn into a lucrative endeavor. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Enter discussions that will spark your interest about different philosophies, lifestyles or options that may suit your future needs. Changing the way you live will give you a boost, but don't go over budget if you want to keep your stress low. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Make concessions if it will help keep the peace with someone you must deal with personally or professionally. Use your imagination and show compassion and you will gain popularity. Taking a different path to get similar results will show your versatility. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Do your best and offer what you can, but don't get involved in joint ventures that are risky. Focus on partnerships with people you can relate to and discuss your plans openly and honestly without feeling as if you are being judged. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Money matters should be taken care of quickly. Protect your assets and your personal documentation. Network with people who show an interest in your ideas, but take control and be clear regarding what you are prepared to offer. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outspoken, determined and sensitive. You embrace challenges.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				7				
		9				8		
	2		5		9		1	
		1		5		3		
3			4		7			5
		7		2		9		
	9		1		6		5	
		4				7		
				8				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	4	7	3	8	1	2	6	5
5	1	2	7	9	6	3	4	8
8	6	3	4	5	2	9	1	7
6	3	1	2	7	4	8	5	9
7	8	4	9	6	5	1	2	3
2	9	5	1	3	8	4	7	6
1	7	6	8	4	3	5	9	2
3	2	9	5	1	7	6	8	4
4	5	8	6	2	9	7	3	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MUSTARDS OF THE WORLD Solution: 9 letters

H	T	C	B	W	S	S	E	C	I	P	S	Y	O	S
G	O	S	R	O	P	W	N	H	H	N	C	A	A	O
O	G	R	A	L	T	U	E	E	E	I	D	U	L	F
D	N	X	S	L	A	T	O	E	P	R	C	I	R	T
T	I	U	S	E	E	R	L	S	T	E	B	K	A	D
O	X	A	I	Y	R	M	U	E	T	Y	F	S	E	N
H	I	E	C	B	G	A	O	T	G	O	Ⓡ	Ⓐ	Ⓙ	N
A	M	D	A	T	A	C	D	N	A	D	U	V	C	G
M	E	R	D	A	R	V	A	I	R	N	I	T	R	R
B	A	O	S	E	L	T	A	E	S	N	T	J	E	O
U	T	B	A	H	I	I	S	R	E	H	I	M	O	U
R	S	M	L	E	C	S	O	G	I	L	E	D	L	N
G	E	I	A	A	I	N	A	T	P	A	S	T	E	D
E	E	L	D	N	C	R	M	A	R	I	N	A	D	E
R	D	D	G	D	E	K	C	A	R	C	R	U	S	T

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Bavarian, Black, Bordeaux, Bottle, Brassica, Cheese, Chicken, Cracked, Cream, Creole, Crust, Curd, Deli, Dijon, Dressing, Fruit, Garlic, Ground, Hamburger, Heat, Herbs, Horseradish, Hot Dog, Indian, Jar, Last, Lemon, Marinade, Meats, Mild, Mixing, Natural, Oil, Paste, Salad, Salt, Sauce, Seed, Soft, Soup, Spices, Spicy, Stout, Sweet, Tangy, Vinegar, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Acoustic

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 33, 34, 35, 36 or 37, call 1-800-642-6480. Order on line at wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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WHATZIT Solution: Even Stevens

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT? ™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

Sondheim 2 Spielberg 2

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High school diploma with (5) years minimum work related experience. Able to operate several types of heavy equipment including but not limited to Backhoe/Loader, Road Roller, Tractor/Trailer Combo, Bulldozer, Hydraulic Crane. Load weights and check them against lifting capacities to prevent overload. Move levers, depress foot pedals, or turn dials to operate cranes, or other moving equipment for lifting, moving, or placing loads. Learn and follow safety regulations. Take actions to avoid potential hazards or obstructions, such as utility lines, other equipment, other workers, or falling objects. Clean, lubricate and inspect mechanisms or accessories such as cables, pulleys, or grappling devices to prevent malfunctions or damage. Perform routine maintenance of equipment. Must have knowledge in troubleshooting and able to diagnose problem or malfunction and make repairs as necessary.

Interested qualified applicants can submit their resume and latest police clearance via e-mail to saipan@aicconstruction.com or mail to AIC Marianas, Inc., PMB 564 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950.
Closing date: August 22, 2013.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Accounting & Circulations Manager
College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management and newspaper circulation experience. Minimum of 5 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management and newspaper circulation activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage a work team and independent contractors. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software.

Graphic Designer (3)
Associate's degree in Graphic Design or other related field. Minimum of 3 years work experience doing computer graphics and newspaper layout. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Must be familiar with offset printing process, computer peripherals, and Mac operating system. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multitask and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, weekends, and holidays, depending on demand.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, August 29, 2013.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Century Insurance Company Ltd. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Accountant
Must be a college graduate in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work-related experience in insurance financial reporting and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and investment management. Proficient in SAP R3 FICO system, MS Word and Excel software. Good analytical ability and proficient knowledge in use of computers. Must be able to work under time pressure and work flexible hours.

Accounting Manager
Bachelor's degree in Business Administration major in accounting with a minimum 5 years experience in insurance financial management and possess good management ability. Proficient in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SAP R3 FICO system, and the insurance Geniisys program. Must possess good understanding of government and regulatory compliance procedures and requirements, excellent communication skills, as well as experience in interpreting financial reports. Preparation of NAIC Annual & Quarterly Statements, knows how to understand actuarial reports and auditing experience an advantage.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Insurance Company Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, August 29, 2013.

Century Insurance Company Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DOF/EDP-166

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF THIRTEEN (13) TOWER DESKTOP COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE/ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING SECTION"

THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL IF, IN ITS OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LARRISA C. LARSON
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Opening Date: August 15, 2013 **Closing Date:** August 30, 2013

POSITION: Housing Inspector/Housing Preservation Technician I

STARTING PL 26/01 to PL 26/04 ($18,584.42 to $21,506.00 per annum)
The starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.

Location of Job Vacancy: Program & Housing Division
NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, August 30, 2013, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than August 30, 2013, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Computer Technician
Associate's degree in any computer science, information technology or other related areas. Must have at least 3 years of sound experience in electronics and communication systems with emphasis on the repair of computer equipment and installation of telephone/cable systems. Must be knowledgeable in different software applications and in hardware troubleshooting. Must be able to work flexible hours.

Messenger
High school graduate. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Good oral and written communication skills and good driving skills are required. Must provide and maintain own vehicle for work and must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Vice President
Graduate of a 4-year degree course with a minimum of 8 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 4 years of general management experience in property management, tourism and/or hotel management. Knowledge of lease negotiations plus financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, August 29, 2013.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

EMPLOYMENT

Looking for Live-in Caregiver. Call 322-3504.

YARD SALE

Yard Sale (household items) Saturday, Aug. 24 at 8am - 12nn, in-front of Monika's furniture, Middle road

WANTED TO BUY

We buy broken game consoles/laptops/tablets/smartphones/cameras. Also, buying fish/fruits. Yan Store 287-6686.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Job Vacancy Announcement

(4) Sales Associate – Minimum 3 years experience in selling. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service, preferably knows how to speak and read Chinese and Japanese. Flexible working hours. Rate $5.55/hr.

Applicants should mail their resume with job references to PMB 1118 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950 or call 233-0017. American Saipan Best Corporation dba Saipan Best Shopping Market.

Misamis Construction (Saipan) Ltd.
Tel: (670) 235-5238

Job Vacancy Announcement

Administrative Assistant (1)

High School Graduate, College degree preferred with 5 years work experience. Duties to include Bookkeeping work. Prepare renewal of various business licenses and permits. Compile and prepare BGRT, Withholding Tax Returns, plus federal 941SS Tax Returns. Prepare contract agreement. Must have knowledge and experience with Peachtree Accounting Software. Must be reliable, dependable, good and trustworthy. Minimum wage to $6.00/hour.

Interested applicants may email resume to misamisconstruction@yahoo.com

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

Position: Manager, Front Office (1)
Qualification:
- 5 years experience and training
- Knowledge in Korea, China & Japan Tourism Market preferred
- Ability to speak & write Korean, Chinese and Japanese language preferred
- Must be able to work flexible hours depending on reservation
- Must be able to communicate clearly with managers & other personnel.
- Self motivated, trustworthiness and good working ethics.
- Courteous and prompt to respond to guest request and needs.
- Knowledge of business and management principles, including customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.

Duties and responsibilities:
- Plan and direct activities such as sales promotions, coordinating with other department heads as required.
- Establish and implement departmental policies, goals, objectives, and procedures conferring with organization officials and staff members as necessary.
- Oversee activities directly related to providing services, manage and training staff, preparing work schedules and assigning specific rules.
- Observe and monitor staff performance to ensure efficient operations and adherence to facility 's policies and procedures.
- Greet, register guests and answer inquiries pertaining to hotel and golf course policies, services and resolve guest's and occupant's complaints.

Position: HVAC Technician (1)
Qualifications:
- 7 years of experience and training
- Must be able to work flexible hours as needed
- Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repairs and maintenance. Knowledge of relevant equipment, policies, procedures and strategies to promote effective security operations for the protection of people, data, property and institution.
- Knowledge of applying principles, techniques, procedures and equipment to the design and production of various good and services.

Duties and responsibilities:
- Analyze and solve complex problems, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, strong physical exertion, responsibility for cost control.
- Sustained high degree of attention required to prevent damage or waste.
- Repair, replace defective equipment, component or wiring necessary to maintain equipment and systems.
- Reassemble and test equipment following repairs.
- Tests pipe or tubing joints or connections for leaks, using pressure gauge or soap-and water solution.
- Comply with applicable standards, policies, and procedures including safety procedures and maintenance of a clean work area.
- Install, connect and adjust thermostats, humidistats and timers using hand tools.
- Inspect and test systems to verify system compliance with plans and specifications or to detect and locate malfunctions.
- Test electrical circuits or components for continuity, using electrical test equipment.

Position: Golf Pro (1)
Qualification:
- 4 years experience and training
- Ability to speak & write Korean, Chinese and Japanese language preferred
- Must be able to work flexible hours depending on reservation
- Must be able to communicate clearly with managers & other personnel.
- Self motivated, trustworthiness and good working ethics.
- Courteous and prompt to respond to guest request and needs.
- Knowledge of principles and methods for teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, meeting quality standards for services and evaluation of customer satisfaction.

Duties and responsibilities:
- Provide training direction, encouragement, motivation to prepare the golfers for games, competitive events.
- Plans, organize and conduct practice sessions.
- Provide information about facilities, explain and enforce safety rules and regulations.
- Monitor activities to ensure adherence to rules and safety procedures, or arrange for the removal of unruly patrons.
- Operate, drive and explain the use of mechanical devices or equipment on the area.
- Instruct individuals or group rules, strategies and performance principles, such as specific ways of moving the body, hands or feet to achieve desired results.
- Adjust techniques, based on the strength and weakness of golfers.
- Keep abreast of changing rules, techniques, technologies and philosophies relevant to the sport.

Position: Kitchen Helper (1)
Qualifications:
- 2 years of working experience and training
- Must be able to work flexible hours depending on reservation and functions
- Must be able to communicate clearly with managers and other personnel.
- Self motivated, trustworthiness and good working ethics.

Duties and responsibilities:
- Wash peel, and cut various foods, such as fruits and vegetables to prepare for cooking or serving.
- Prepare a variety of foods, such as meats, vegetables, desserts, according to customer's order or supervisor's instructions following approved procedures.
- Store food in designated containers and storage areas to prevent spoilage.
- Mix ingredients for green salads, molded fruit salads, vegetables salads and pasta salads.
- Receive and store food supplies, equipment, and utensils in refrigerators, cupboards and other storage areas.
- Wash dishes, glassware, flatware, pots or pans using dishwashers or by hand.
- Place clean dishes, utensils or cooking equipment in storage areas.
- Maintain kitchen work areas, equipment, or utensils in clean and orderly condition.
- Stock supplies, such as food or utensils, in serving stations, cupboards, refrigerators or salad bars.
- Sweep or scrub floors, clean garbage cans with water or steam.
- Sort and remove trash, placing it in designated pickup areas.

Drop off your resume and application at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort at the Front Office, Kagman Road.
May submit resume online at: tmatsunaga@laolaobay.com
Deadline to submit Applications is on or before 5:00pm on August 23, 2013.

Saipan LauLau Development, Inc., dba LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Our Resort is looking for a dynamic candidate with a strong and all around experience in Hotel operations. The Operations Manager shall assist the General Manager in developing and executing business plans and will be responsible for keeping a perfect coordination between all departments with focus on guest satisfaction, development of people, financial results and quality assurance.

As the Operations Manager, the responsibilities include but are not limited to:
- Assisting in the day-to-day management of the Resort and its staff, budgeting and financial management, planning, organizing and directing of all Resort services, including Front Office, (reception, concierge, reservations), Housekeeping and Engineering functions
- Writing and reviewing reports, monitoring department operations, ordering inventory, and conducting operations/service reviews
- Regular ongoing monitoring of staff to ensure the adherence to pre-established policies and procedures and find ways to address problems and improve guest services
- Daily property inspections and interaction with everyone from employees to management to guests and other stakeholders

Qualifications:
- Minimum Education: Associate's Degree preferably in Tourism, Hotel & Restaurant or Business Management
- Minimum Experience: Two years of experience in a similar role or in a high volume hospitality environment at a managerial level in Rooms Reservations and Front Office or operations
- Ability to work flexible hours including nights, weekends, and holidays
- Must possess strong leadership and communication skills. Organized, motivated, analytical and creative, as well as comfortable in directing others
- Must be proficient in various computer software applications and has a proven track record of meeting budgets, an understanding of P&L statements and cost/inventory control

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application Forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our Resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than September 13, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Yasiel Puig's homer lifts Dodgers past Marlins, 6-4

MIAMI (AP)— With his first swing of the night, Yasiel Puig ended a slump and silenced speculation he's in trouble.

He came off the bench to hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning and help the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Miami Marlins 6-4 on Tuesday night.

Puig was held out of the starting lineup after going hitless in his past 11 at-bats. He also drew a fine when he arrived late for pregame drills, raising more questions about the 22-year-old's maturity and comportment.

He entered in the sixth inning in a double switch, batted for the first time leading off the eighth and needed only one pitch to break a 4-all tie.

The NL West leaders broke a two-game losing streak, their longest in two months. They won despite blowing a 4-1 lead and hitting into four double plays.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasiel Puig hits a solo home run in the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2013 in Miami.

Mets 5, Braves 3

In New York, rookie Zack Wheeler beat NL East-leading Atlanta for the third time, pitching shutout ball into the seventh inning and sending New York to victory.

Wheeler improved to 3-0 this year against the team with the best record in the majors. Helped by his midseason promotion from Triple-A, the Mets hold an 8-7 edge over the Braves.

Marlon Byrd and Ike Davis homered and speedy Eric Young Jr. sparked the Mets, stealing two bases, scoring twice and making a diving catch in left field. Catcher Travis d'Arnaud doubled for his first hit in the majors, ending an 0-for-10 rut.

Wheeler (6-2), raised in the Atlanta suburbs, defeated the Braves at Turner Field in his big league debut in June, then topped them at Citi Field in July.

Rockies 5, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Troy Tulowitzki and Wilin Rosario homered to lead Colorado past Philadelphia.

Jorge De La Rosa (13-6) pitched into the seventh to win his third straight start. Dexter Fowler also drove in a run to help the Rockies jump out to a 5-0 lead.

Rockies third baseman Nolan Arenado made a fantastic backhanded stop and in-the-air throw to first in the seventh inning to rob Jimmy Rollins of a run-scoring hit.

Rafael Betancourt tossed a scoreless ninth for his 16th save.

Tyler Cloyd (2-3) allowed five runs in six innings in his first major league start since June 12.

Diamondbacks 5, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Paul Goldschmidt set a club record with his third grand slam of the season and became the first NL player to drive in 100 runs, powering Arizona over Cincinnati.

Goldschmidt connected in the eighth inning off J.J. Hoover, ending the reliever's streak of 23 scoreless appearances. His 31st homer tied him with Pittsburgh's Pedro Alvarez for the NL lead. All of his career grand slams have come this season.

Left-hander Patrick Corbin (13-3) stymied Cincinnati's lefty-dominated lineup, pitching a six-hitter, including Chris Heisey's two-run homer, during his second complete game. Corbin matched his career high with 10 strikeouts.

The left-hander shut down the Reds' left-handed threats—Shin-Soo Choo, Joey Votto and Jay Bruce were a combined 0 for 12 with seven strikeouts.

Nationals 4, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Ryan Zimmerman had two hits and drove in a run, Bryce Harper had two hits and scored a crucial ninth-inning run, and Dan Haren pitched six strong innings to help Washington beat Chicago.

Zimmerman had two doubles and could have had four hits as he lined out to third base in the third inning to start a double play and hit a hard shot at the center-fielder in the seventh.

Haren (8-11) kept the Cubs off-balance despite not throwing a pitch faster than 89 all night. Rafael Soriano gave up a leadoff homer to Donnie Murphy in the ninth before getting the last three outs for his 32nd save in 38 chances.

Cubs starter Chris Rusin (2-3) gave up two runs and 10 hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Brewers 6, Cardinals 3

In Milwaukee, Kyle Lohse beat St. Louis for the first time this season and Sean Halton knocked in a career-high three runs to help lead Milwaukee to victory.

Lohse (9-8) beat the Cardinals in his fourth try this season and improved to 3-5 in nine outings overall against his former team.

Lohse left after six innings with the Brewers leading 6-3. He struck out four, walked two and allowed six hits and three runs, two coming on Yadier Molina's two-run homer in the fourth. Molina also doubled and scored in the second on Matt Adams' single.

John Axford and Brandon Kintzler each pitched a scoreless inning, and Jim Henderson pitched the ninth for his 19th save in 22 chances.

Lance Lynn (13-7) got roughed up in the Brewers' five-run fourth, highlighted by Halton's two-run single with the bases loaded.

Pirates 8, Padres 1

In San Diego, A.J. Burnett threw seven strong innings and Pittsburgh had six extra-base hits, including Neil Walker's home run, to beat San Diego.

Burnett (6-8) held the Padres to one run and four hits, struck out seven and walked one. He bounced back from two starts in which he allowed 10 earned runs and 16 hits in 10 innings.

The right-hander improved to 2-5 lifetime against the Padres. His only previous victory against San Diego was a no-hitter on May 12, 2001, while with the Marlins. Burnett walked nine that night.

The Pirates opened a two-game lead in the NL Central over St. Louis, which lost 6-3 at Milwaukee.

The Padres have lost 10 of 14 and tied their season high by dropping 17Ω games behind the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers.

Giants 3, Red Sox 2

In San Francisco, Brayan Villarreal walked Marco Scutaro with the bases loaded and two outs in the bottom of the ninth, handing San Francisco the victory over Boston.

Roger Kieschnick started the winning rally with a one-out single off Franklin Morales (2-1). The Giants loaded the bases with two outs when Morales walked Andres Torres and hit pinch-hitter Hector Sanchez on the left wrist.

Villarreal then threw four straight balls to Scutaro in his first appearance with the Red Sox, giving the defending World Series champions a rare reason to celebrate this summer.

Sergio Romo (4-6) pitched a perfect ninth for the win.

YaNkees 8, Blue Jays 4, Yankees 3, Blue Jays 2,

In New York, Jayson Nix hit a tying homer in the seventh inning and a game-ending single in the ninth, lifting the New York Yankees to their second comeback victory over the Toronto Blue Jays in the nightcap for a doubleheader sweep.

In the opener, Robinson Cano and Chris Stewart each hit three-run homers to rally the Yankees from four runs down to an 8-4 win.

Toronto lost slugger Jose Bautista to a sore hip early in the opener.

Cano had an RBI single in the second game and had six hits and five RBIs in the two games.

Ichiro Suzuki singled and doubled in the first game, leaving him one shy of 4,000 combined hits during his careers in Japan and the major leagues.

Darren Oliver (3-4) walked Mark Reynolds to start the ninth. Suzuki pinch ran and advanced on Eduardo Nunez's sacrifice bunt. Suzuki stole third before scoring on Nix's line drive to left that gave the Yankees their eighth win in 11 games.

Mariano Rivera (4-2) worked out of a two-on jam in the top of the ninth for the win. Anthony Gose failed to get down a sacrifice bunt in the top of the ninth.

The Blue Jays extended their record with an 11th straight loss in New York.

Stewart connected off Neil Wagner (2-4) in the sixth inning of the opener for his first homer since May 15 — that's 173 homerless at-bats — to put New York ahead.

In the opener, Cano got his 200th career home run and Ivan Nova (7-4) got the win.

Indians 4, Angels 1, 14 innings

In Anaheim, California, Drew Stubbs hit a two-run homer in the 14th inning, and Cleveland outlasted Los Angeles to gain ground in the AL playoff race.

Lonnie Chisenhall got the Indians going with a one-out single in the 14th off Joe Blanton (2-14), the Angels' seventh pitcher. Stubbs, the Indians' No. 9 hitter, was 0 for 4 with a walk before connecting for his first homer since July 4.

Michael Bourn then singled and scored from second on Blanton's throwing error for the Angels, who have lost eight of 10. Los Angeles stranded 17 runners — 13 after the sixth inning, including two in the final frame.

Carlos Santana hit a tying homer in the seventh for the Indians, who managed just four hits in the first 12 innings.

Twins 6, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Justin Morneau had a season-high four hits, including a two-run homer and a two-run double, and Glen Perkins struck out Miguel Cabrera with two on for the final out to help Minnesota hold off Detroit.

Mike Pelfrey (5-10) gave up three runs and seven hits in 6 2-3 innings. Jared Burton got out of a two-on, one-out jam in the eighth, and Perkins finished for his 29th save in 32 chances.

Rick Porcello (9-7) allowed five runs and seven hits over 4 1-3 innings for Detroit.

The Twins were without All-Star Joe Mauer, who was scratched from his start at first when he experienced dizziness during batting practice.

Rays 7, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, Alex Cobb took a two-hitter into the seventh inning and Matt Joyce drove in three runs as Tampa Bay beat Baltimore for its sixth win in seven games.

Wil Myers had two hits and two RBIs for the Rays, who moved percentage points ahead of Boston for the AL East lead.

Cobb (8-2) was making his second start since being hit in the head by a line drive on June 15. He allowed two runs, one earned, three hits and four walks in six-plus innings.

Miguel Gonzalez (8-6) gave up three runs, two earned, eight hits and four walks in 5 2-3 innings for the Orioles. The right-hander is 0-3 in five starts since July 20.

White Sox 2, Royals 0

In Kansas City, John Danks shut down Kansas City's scuffling offense for eight innings, and Chicago did just enough damage against Ervin Santana to squeak out a victory.

Danks (3-10) ended an eight-start winless streak by scattering seven hits and a walk. That the veteran left-hander's finest start of the season came against the Royals wasn't much of a surprise: Danks improved to 5-0 against them in 13 career starts.

Addison Reed worked around a leadoff single in the ninth for his 32nd save. It wrapped up the first shutout win for the last-place White Sox since a 3-0 victory against the Angels on May 17.

Gordon Beckham homered off Santana (8-7) in the first inning for the only earned run.

Mariners 7, Athletics 4

In Oakland, California, Nick Franklin hit a home run and drove in three runs and the Mariners rallied from a four-run deficit to beat the Athletics.

Brad Miller and Kendrys Morales also drove in runs for the Mariners, who won for just the third time in 53 games when trailing after seven innings.

Josh Donaldson and Nate Freiman each hit a home run for the A's, who dropped 1 1-2 games behind the AL West-leading Texas Rangers. Derek Norris also drove in a run for the A's.

Sean Doolittle (4-5) allowed hits to all four batters he faced in the eighth. Brandon Maurer (4-7) pitched a scoreless seventh to record the victory. Danny Farquhar recorded his eighth save in 11 chances with a scoreless ninth.

Eagles coach Kelly names Vick starting QB

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michael Vick took a pay cut and had to compete for his job when he returned to the Eagles.

Part of the choice had to do with the up-tempo offense mapped out by new coach Chip Kelly.

"I just thought," Vick said, "this was the best opportunity, the best fit for me."

Turns out, Vick was the best fit for Kelly.

With his first chance to put his stamp on Philadelphia's offense, Kelly named Vick the starting quarterback on Tuesday, giving the veteran the nod over Nick Foles after a sterling effort in the preseason.

"He's our starter for the season," Kelly said. "It's not a one-game trial basis."

There wasn't a lot of suspense with Kelly's decision, which was announced after practice on Tuesday, and after the coach met with both players. About the only surprise was the timing - Kelly had hinted he might not name a starter until closer to the opener. But Kelly, in his first season after coaching at Oregon, ended the mystery and will have Vick taking the snaps when Philadelphia opens the regular season at Washington Sept. 9.

"I'm not surprised at all," Vick said. "I told him, `Thank you, I appreciate it and I won't let you down.'"

Vick has been solid in two preseason games, and Foles, in his second season with the Eagles, has struggled to grasp Kelly's multifaceted offense. Vick has thrown for 199 yards this preseason and will take a 113.2 quarterback rating into Friday's game at Jacksonville (0-2).

Foles has been sacked six times in two games, and has a quarterback rating of 65.5, after showing flashes as a rookie last season while Vick was injured. Vick played in just 10 games last season, while Foles topped 340 yards twice as a rookie.

AP

Philadelphia Eagles' Michael Vick throws a pass as Nick Foles looks on at the NFL football team's training camp in Philadelphia, Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2013.

The Eagles (1-1) are coming off a 4-12 season, coach Andy's Reid's last, and haven't made the playoffs since they won the NFC East at the end of the 2010 season.

"We had a good amount of tape, a good amount of us seeing them on the field," Kelly said. "And seeing them in a lot of different situations, and wanted to put a guy in place, if we could, in enough time to get us to prepare the season."

Kelly has only shown flashes of his up-tempo offense in the first two preseason games and defenses already seem tired and confused while the Eagles are moving the ball with ease. The first-team offense led by Vick and Foles has four touchdowns on eight-plus possessions in two games. One drive ended with an end-zone interception and two others ended with fumbles.

Behind Foles will be Matt Barkley, a rookie from Southern Cal.

"The competitor in me, you always want to be the one on the field playing," Barkley said. "At the same time, I love Mike. We've gone about it the right way. We've kept our great friendship and we've pushed each other. I'm proud of him. I'm going to do anything I can to help him become the best quarterback possible.

"I'm excited for him. Nothing changes in my preparation. I'm going to prepare the same way."

Vick had a breakout year under Reid in 2010, leading the Eagles to the division title, winning The Associated Press Comeback Player of the Year award and starting in the Pro Bowl. But he's battled injuries and inconsistency the last two years.

Now 33, Vick sustained a concussion in Week 10 last year and Reid decided to let Foles play the rest of the way because the Eagles were in last place. Vick returned to start the season finale against the New York Giants because Foles was hurt. He finished the year with 2,362 yards passing, 12 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. He lost five fumbles.

"I think Mike is ahead right now. I think Nick made it very difficult," Kelly said. "It wasn't where one guy went north and the other guy went south. I think both of them upped their games.

"But at this point in time Mike's ahead."

The four-time Pro Bowl quarterback agreed in February to a restructured three-year contract with the Eagles, just two seasons after signing a $100 million extension that included $35.5 million in guaranteed money. The new deal is essentially for one year, however.

Vick could earn up to $10 million in 2013 if he meets all performance incentives. He was slated to earn about $16 million this season, including a $3 million roster bonus.

Vick has missed 11 games because of injuries over the last three seasons.

A former No. 1 overall pick by Atlanta, Vick was signed by Philadelphia in 2009 after missing two years because he was in federal prison for his role in a dogfighting ring. He came in as the No. 3 quarterback behind Donovan McNabb and Kevin Kolb.

After McNabb was traded and Kolb was injured in the season opener in 2010, Vick took over and was outstanding. He had career highs in yards passing (3,018), completion percentage (62.6), touchdowns passing (21), touchdowns rushing (9) and passer rating (100.2).

He might not hit those numbers again - even if Vick believes he's still capable of playing like his old self.

"It don't stop here. This is just Day 1," he said. "I've still got to prove myself."

Von Miller to serve 6-game suspension

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Broncos linebacker Von Miller received a six-game suspension under the NFL's substance-abuse policy Tuesday, taking away the best defensive player from a team many expect to make a run at the Super Bowl.

The league wanted a longer penalty for the third-year linebacker, but the sides agreed to less than half the season, a person familiar with the negotiations between the linebacker and the NFL told The Associated Press.

The person who spoke to the AP did not want to be identified because details about the negotiations were not public.

Broncos executive vice president John Elway said the team was frustrated with what happened "and, I think, disappointed in Von."

"We'll live with that decision," Elway said. "What I'd like to do is try to do everything we can to prevent any other situations."

According to the NFL, Miller is eligible to play and practice through the last two preseason games. His suspension, without pay, will begin Aug. 31, and will cost him more than $800,000 of the nearly $2.3 million he's scheduled to make this season.

He'll be allowed at the team facility, but not at practice during the suspension. He can return to the field Oct. 14, the day after Denver's home game against Jacksonville, and will be eligible for an Oct. 20 contest at the Indianapolis Colts.

After being notified of the decision, Miller released a statement saying, "although my suspension doesn't result from a positive test, there is no excuse for my violations of the rules."

"I made mistakes and my suspension has hurt my team, Broncos fans, and myself," he said. "I am especially sorry for the effect of my bad decisions on others. I will not make the same mistakes about adhering to the policy in the future. "

The NFL has two drug policies—one that covers use of performance-enhancing substances and the "Policy and Program for Substances of Abuse" that applied to Miller's case.

There are ways to violate the drug policy without necessarily testing positive. They include missing a test, refusing to test, tampering with tests or giving a diluted urine sample.

The Broncos had been operating throughout the preseason as if Miller would be with them for their regular-season opener Sept. 5.

"I don't know if that was confidence as much as it was wishful thinking," coach John Fox said. "I think we all tend to look at the glass half full instead of half empty. But now the reality is there and I'm kind of glad we've gotten to where it is finalized."

It gives Fox a chance to finalize "Plan B" for a team listed at most Vegas sports books as the favorite to win the Super Bowl. Miller is the best player on the Broncos defense - the second pick of the 2011 draft, the NFL's 2011 Defensive Rookie of the Year and runner-up last season for the league's Defensive Player of the Year. He had 18 1/2 sacks last season and 30 over his two years.

Likely to take his spot at the rush linebacker position is Shaun Phillips, a 10-year veteran the Broncos signed in free agency during the offseason.

Others in the mix in a juggled linebacker corps include Nate Irving, Wesley Woodyard and Danny Trevathan. Another linebacker, Stewart Bradley, had emerged as a front-runner over Irving at middle linebacker during training camp, but he hurt his left wrist in a preseason game Saturday night and underwent surgery.

On Tuesday, the Broncos signed 12th-year veteran Paris Lenon, who played ahead of Bradley in Arizona last year.

"We're going to have to have guys play better," Fox said. "Everybody is going to have to step up. I know it's `Next man up,' but he's a hard man to replace."

Miller, meanwhile, has a number of issues pending before his return. Among them, staying in playing shape while not being allowed to practice with the team. He also must clear up his recent arrest for failing to appear in court for traffic violations. News of the arrest came as Miller was deep in negotiations with the league and the union over his case, about which he repeatedly insisted he had "done nothing wrong."

Then, there's the issue of keeping the trust of his teammates, who have steadfastly backed him during a summer filled with turmoil.

"Has not changed," Peyton Manning said Tuesday, before word of the six-game suspension became official. "There's been a lot of noise and speculation. But Von is one of our teammates. He's part of the family, and I certainly have his back as his teammate and I know that all the players do and the organization does."

The organization has been hit by a number of distracting stories since last season ended with a loss to Baltimore in the divisional playoffs.

The Broncos lost their second-leading sack man, Elvis Dumervil, because of a foul-up with a fax machine while his contract was being finalized. Two front-office executives got arrested on drunken-driving charges and were suspended. Miller's status has been the news since training camp started, though it has shared headlines with a steady beat of injuries coming out of training camp.

All of which threatens the focus of a team that brought Manning in to win the Super Bowl now.

"I think sometimes you can use distractions to your benefit, in the fact that distractions are also when you are getting patted on the back all the time, which we have been quite a bit," Elway said. "Von was a big part of our defense and we're going to have to play and pick up that slack."

Miller will be sidelined for the season opener against Baltimore, then at the New York Giants, home against Philadelphia and Oakland, at Dallas and home against Jacksonville. His return coincides with Manning's first game in Indianapolis since he last put on a Colts uniform.

"The guys around him have to play better," Fox said. "The guys on the other side of the ball have to play better. That will be the challenge to our team."

Pistorius, Steenkamp family reps 'talking'

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—The families of Oscar Pistorius and his slain girlfriend are in contact, a lawyer for Reeva Steenkamp's parents said Tuesday.

The communication between the two families is over a possible out-of-court settlement that would compensate the Steenkamps for the killing of their daughter by the double-amputee Olympian, according to South African press reports.

A South African newspaper reported that negotiations were initiated by Pistorius' lawyers, who the paper said were "desperately trying" to negotiate a settlement before Pistorius goes on trial in March on a charge of premeditated murder for Steenkamp's shooting death.

Dup de Bruyn, the lawyer for the Steenkamp family, told The Associated Press that "the two sides are talking" but declined to comment further because of the delicate situation.

Before her death, Steenkamp reportedly gave financial help to her parents, Barry and June. She was killed by Pistorius on Feb. 14, with prosecutors indicting the world-famous athlete on a charge of premeditated murder Monday.

His trial is set for March 3-20, 2014 in the South African capital, Pretoria, where a conviction could also make him liable to a substantial civil suit by Steenkamp's family. Pistorius denies murder and says he shot Steenkamp by mistake, thinking she was a dangerous nighttime intruder in his house.

AP

In this Feb. 19, 2013 file photo, a mourner carries a program at the funeral for Reeva Steenkamp, portrait, Port Elizabeth, South Africa. A lawyer for the family of Oscar Pistorius' slain girlfriend said Tuesday Aug. 20 2013, that representatives of the two families were in contact, possibly over an out-of-court settlement that would compensate Reeva Steenkamp's parents for her killing by the double-amputee Olympian.

South Africa's Times newspaper reported that lawyers for Pistorius had approached Steenkamp's family, and the newspaper said Steenkamp's parents were seeking around $300,000 for loss of income and emotional stress.

"Pistorius' lawyers want to settle the lawsuit before the outcome of the criminal trial, in an attempt to reduce a possible payout," The Times said in its front-page story.

Pistorius is already under financial pressure because of his mounting legal bills.

The Times said Kenny Oldwadge, one of Pistorius' lawyers, "confirmed the discussions with Steenkamp's family."

"You will understand this is a very sensitive situation," Oldwadge said, according to the paper.

Oldwadge didn't immediately answer phone calls to his cellphone from the AP.

Steenkamp, a model and budding reality TV star in South Africa, would have turned 30 on Monday, the day Pistorius was indicted on charges of murder and illegal possession of ammunition.

Pistorius faces large lawyers' fees and is not earning any money after he took an indefinite break from competing to concentrate on his upcoming trial.

Giants' Cruz on crutches, not worried about foot

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—The New York Giants are giving wide receiver Victor Cruz's bruised left heel a little extra medical attention.

The team's leading receiver the past two seasons, Cruz walked to a podium Tuesday using crutches and with his foot in a boot. It raised some immediate concerns about the severity of his injury.

"Why does everyone look so sad," Cruz quipped after looking at reporters.

The reality is the Giants are just being cautious with the regular-season opener at Dallas less than three weeks away. Cruz did not practice on Tuesday, and it seems unlikely that he will be a target for Eli Manning in the annual bragging rights preseason game at the Jets on Saturday night. He might not even play in the preseason finale against New England on Aug. 29 if Tom Coughlin wants to be very careful.

"It's all about just getting better at this point," said Cruz, who recently signed a $43 million contract extension. "I think I have a firm understanding of the offense, and me and Eli have an understanding of how he likes to hit me and things we do out there on the field. So I'm not too concerned about it. Obviously I'm a guy that loves to practice, loves to be out there. Just a short setback. And a time where—you never want to have one—but if there's a time to have one, it's now. So it's not bad."

Cruz bruised the heel Sunday night trying to catch a long pass from Manning on the opening series. It was a jump ball type of play, and one of the defenders came down on his foot. It immediately went numb.

The Giants have told him his status is day to day, but it looked more week to week with crutches and a boot.

The 26-year-old hopes to shed the crutches soon. He is being treated with ice and medication to reduce the swelling. He added he doesn't think the injury will linger all season.

"Once the swelling goes down, I think I'll be OK," said Cruz, who grew up in nearby Paterson and created a spot for himself with the Giants catching three touchdowns as a free agent receiver against the Jets in 2010.

"I just want to be smart," Cruz added.

Cruz didn't think his injury was serious when it happened because he did not hear anything pop. He even stayed on the field for one more play before going to the bench.

An MRI showed some blood in the heel. There was no muscle tear and no broken bones, Cruz said, adding he expects to play in the opener.

"I do see myself, envision myself out here on the practice field, getting ready for that Cowboys game, getting ready to go down to Texas to play those guys," he said. "That's what I do envision."

MGA Aug. Ace this Saturday

The Marianas Golf Association will hold its August Ace of the Month Tournament this coming Saturday, Aug. 24, at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort east course.

Show time is set at 9am and tee time is an hour later at 10am. MGA would like to thank Laolao Bay Golf & Resort management for its partnership with the club.

For more information about MGA and for further updates on its upcoming tournaments, contact J.J. Atalig at 285-4115 or email MGA at marianasgolf670@gmail.com.

The public can also view the organization's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MarianasGolfAssociation. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

NMASA

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but these have been sitting at the House for more than a year. Then in April this year, Gov. Eloy S. Inos submitted to the Legislature the budget for fiscal year 2014, including the $130, 266 for NMASA, giving the group's bid for independence a big boost.

However, despite its inclusion on the budget, NMASA's call for independence from both DCCA and DSR would still require legislation so this is where Sablan's bill comes in. The bill would have established NMASA, which will be known as Northern Marianas Sports Association, as a private, non-profit organization. The measure also requires DCCA to transfer unobligated appropriations for the Division of Sports and Recreation, which essentially will cease to exist.

Saipan Tribune sent an email to DSR through director Jojo Attao, requesting for comments about the bill, but has yet to get a response at press time.

NMASA president Michael White, on the other hand, responded to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry and wished that the bill will be signed into law soon, as the Legislature has only until Sept. 30 to pass the budget.

"NMASA fully supports HB 18-111, and urges its prompt passage. The bill is modeled on federal legislation creating the United States Olympic Committee. It will give NMASA the tools that we need to do the job that the people of the CNMI deserve, and that the law requires us to do," White said.

Pending the passage of Sablan's bill, NMASA's operation only involves on dealing with various local sports organization and sending athletes and officials to off-island competitions and seminars. Funding from these trips are mostly shouldered by athletes and their local/international federations, while NMASA sometimes chipped in using funds it collected from membership fees and donations. NMASA is not a member of the International Olympic Committee, thus it does not receive millions of pesos of funding annually from the IOC.

Once given the authority to become a private non-profit organization, NMASA can raise its own funds through fees from the usage of the facilities and vending and advertising rights at the complex and operation of public lottery. NMASA will also be allowed to accept donations, gifts, legacies, devises, and government appropriations, as stated in Section 105 (Power), lines 22 and 22 of the House Bill 18-111.

"The bill gives NMASA the ability to raise the funds which will enable us to fulfill our responsibilities and carry out our functions, while lessening the burden on the government to provide funding. NMASA views the enactment of this bill as critically important to the fulfillment of its obligation to take over the management of the sports complex on Oct. 1," White said.

ROP

From Page 28

got the victory earlier, as the fight was ended at the 1:51 of the opening round.

In the fourth MMA duel of the night, the debuting T.J. Sablan capitalized on his height advantage to prevail over Zalaka's Allan Aguon. Aguon chased Sablan to the corner, but the latter was quick to react, locking his foe's neck for the Guillotine choke and the former tapped out at the 2:42 mark of the first round.

Meanwhile, the fastest victory in ROP 15 belonged to Team Slice's Walt Florencio, who needed only 31 seconds to finish off Francisco Sinounou and earn a victory via referee stoppage (flurry of kicks).

Completing the list of winners in last Friday's events were three Trench Tech bets—A.J. "Mini Mouse" Aldan, Francisco "Pak Pak" Palacios, and Benedict Estoque.

Aldan used his quickness to gain top position on Garry "Dissa" Ray and pounded his foes with strikes on the body and the head before employing a rear-naked choke on the latter for the submission win at the 2:46 mark of the first round.

Palacios also won in the first round, as he caught the right leg of Team Madhouse's Daniel Floor, slammed him on the floor, and showered him with string of strikes, forcing guest referee Frank "The Crank Camacho to stop the fight at the 1:23 mark of Round 1.

Estoque joined his fellow Trench Tech fighters on the winner's list after a victory via arm-bar submission over R.A.A.'s Jake Ray in the 2:45 mark of the second round. Estoque and Ray grappled in the first round, which ended with the bout pretty even before the former got a hold of the latter's right arm to take the win one round early.

ZAPANTA

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falls behind Angeles, as the former started the qualifier with his 190 pinfalls before gaining at least 200 in the next three games (200, 222, and 236) and closing out with 174 and 171 for an average of 198.83.

Last year's Class A champion Ruselle Zapanta missed the cut after the six-game roll-off, as he finished only fourth with his 1,186. Ruselle scored 200-plus pinfalls only twice (210 and 245) and fell short in his bid for a return trip to the finals after tallying 188 and 180 in his last two games. Adding his 176 and 187 in Games 2 and 3, Ruselle averaged only 197.67.

Ruselle and two other bowlers—Percy Omechelang and Simon Manacop—still went home with cash prizes ($90,$75, and $60) after the awards ceremony last weekend. Omechelang placed fifth after gathering 1,181 pinfalls, while Manacop's 1,169 output was good for seventh place.

Other participants in the Class A event were Raul Dumapit (1,162), Tony Verdaguer (1,152), Rusty Musca (1,152), Paul Pangelinan (1,125), Ronald Epan (1,070), Alex Castro (869), Ramir De Leon (1,026), and Lynn (944) and Jojo (865) Santos.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	72	52	.581	—
Boston	74	54	.578	—
Baltimore	67	58	.536	5 1/2
New York	66	59	.528	6 1/2
Toronto	57	69	.452	16

Central Division

Detroit	73	52	.584	—
Cleveland	68	58	.540	5 1/2
Kansas City	64	60	.516	8 1/2
Minnesota	55	69	.444	17 1/2
Chicago	50	74	.403	22 1/2

West Division

Texas	73	53	.579	—
Oakland	71	54	.568	1 1/2
Seattle	58	67	.464	14 1/2
Los Angeles	55	70	.440	17 1/2
Houston	41	84	.328	31 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	76	48	.613	—
Washington	60	64	.484	16
New York	57	66	.463	18 1/2
Philadelphia	55	69	.444	21
Miami	48	75	.390	27 1/2

Central Division

Pittsburgh	73	51	.589	—
St. Louis	72	52	.581	1
Cincinnati	71	54	.568	2 1/2
Chicago	54	70	.435	19
Milwaukee	54	71	.432	19 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	72	52	.581	—
Arizona	64	59	.520	7 1/2
Colorado	58	68	.460	15
San Diego	56	69	.448	16 1/2
San Francisco	55	69	.444	17

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood Basketball League 2013 Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mobil's Jun Estolas goes for a reverse layup against Mariana Resort's Leo Galarse during their title game in the Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood Basketball League 2013/Docomo Pacific Cup last Saturday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Mariana Resort's Marlon Sison faces three Mobil defenders.

Mobil's Freddie Pelisamen tries to maneuver his way out of two Mariana Resort defenders.

Mariana Resort's Jawn Joyner pulls up for a triple against Mobil's Errol Peredo.

Mariana Resort's Elgene Mangali goes up for a shot against three Mobil players.

Mobil's Jorge De Guzman gets away for his patented reverse layup.

Errol Peredo pulls up for a baseline jumper against Mariana Resort's Rolly Paraiso.

Mobil's Marvin Rabauliman commits himself on mid-air and gets ready to dish the ball to Errol Peredo.

Mobil's Badong Camacho goes up for a shot against Mariana Resort's Joy Dayrit.

Mariana Resort's Ernie Moises commits a foul on a driving Jun Estolas.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

NMASA steps closer to sports complex takeover

The track and field oval is one of the facilities located at the Oleai Sports Complex, which NMASA may operate and maintain once House Bill 18-111 is signed into law. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The stumbling block preventing Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association from fully taking over of the facilities at the Oleai Sports Complex could be soon removed once House Bill 18-111 is signed into law.

The bill, pre-filed by Rep. Antonio Sablan (IR-Saipan) on Aug. 13, 2013, seeks to repeal Executive Order 94-3, which placed NMASA under the wing of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs through the Division of Sports and Recreation. NMASA, through Public Law 4-66, was originally tasked to maintain and operate the sports complex, but for more than a decade, it was the DSR which is doing that job using funds the government allocated to agencies under DCCA.

For the past two years, NMASA sought to be included on the budget of DCCA, since the agency reiterated the former is under the department, but to no avail. Two house bills (HB 17-112 and 17-268) were also introduced to have NMASA exercise its powers in coordination with DCCA,

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ROP 15 fighters ease way to victories

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TRENCH TECH

Ten fighters in the Rites of Passage 15: Wrath of the Warriors needed no scorecards from the judges, as they last beat their respective foes in convincing fashion last Friday at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

In the opening kickboxing bouts, both fights were decided in the first round. Guam Muay Thai's Alex Andrea defeated Team Makpo's L.J. George, earning a TKO win at the 2:00 mark of the first round. The third man on the ring stopped the fight, as the hapless George was cornered and took all off Andrea's punishing punches and kicks.

Josh Javellana, also of Guam Muay Thai, used his superior kickboxing skills, too, to get a victory via verbal submission over Pwang's Pete "Project K" Keju. Javellana hit Keju on the knee in the closing seconds of the opening round and just before the bell sounded to start Round 2, Keju threw in the towel.

In the first MMA bout of the night between Zalaka's Danny Cruz and Zeng Zung's Pete "Te Beast" Cepeda, the latter employed a rear-naked choke on the former for a submission win at the 2:46 mark of the second round.

The next two MMA matches were also won via RNC with Trench Tech's Vince Torres and Zalaka's Jordan Manglona pulling the plug on Zeng Zung's Regino "The Kid" Mundo and R.A.A.'s Ray Camacho. Mundo failed to be saved by the bell, as Torres pinned him down on the ground for the submission win with just one second left in the first round. Manglona used the same tactic on Camacho and

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Zalaka's Allan Aguon grimaces in pain as T.J. Sablan employs a Guillotine choke during the first ound of their bout in the Rites of Passage 15: Wrath of the Warriors last Friday at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Zapanta outlasts Talavera is Class A finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Raymond Zapanta saved enough energy in the deciding Game 2 of his finals showdown with Robert Talavera to win Class A of the 2013 Philippine Bowling Association Budweiser Classified Tournament.

Zapanta dropped Game 1 of the finals, 187-209, but would not be denied in Game 2, crushing Talavera, 201-150, to rule the 14-player competition held early this month at the Saipan Bowling Center.

The Zapanta-Talavera duel was arranged after the former topped the qualifying tournament and gained an outright finals berth, while the latter survived the semifinals. Talavera pounded Raymond Angeles in the semis, 222-114, to earn the right to face Zapanta, who had a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals. Zapanta needed that privilege, as Talavera kept his momentum and drew first blood in the finals with a 22-pinfall win before fatigue took its toll on him in Game 2.

The two finalists along with the eventual third placer Angeles received cash prizes($350, $250, and $140) and trophies for making it to the Top 3 of Class A division of the annual tournament during a brief awards ceremony last Saturday at SBC.

Angeles settled for the No. 3 spot despite placing second in the qualifying roll-offs. He collected 1,196 pinfalls in the six-game qualifier to fall behind Zapanta, who earned 1,225 and was the lone bowler in his Class to average at least 200 pinfalls (204.17). The top qualifier and eventual Class A champion posted 200-plus pinfalls in three games (237 in Game 1, 236 in Game 4, and 206 in Game 5) to go with his 188s (Games 2 and 3) and 170 in Game 6 for a 129-pinfall lead over Angeles.

Talavera was just three pin-

See ZAPANTA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Class A winner Raymond Zapanta smiles, as he poses with his 1-month-old baby girl and runners-up Robert Talavera, left, and Raymond Angeles during the awards ceremony for the 2013 PBA Budweiser Classified Tournament last Saturday at the Saipan Bowling Center.